MARVEL
31st May 86
No63 30p

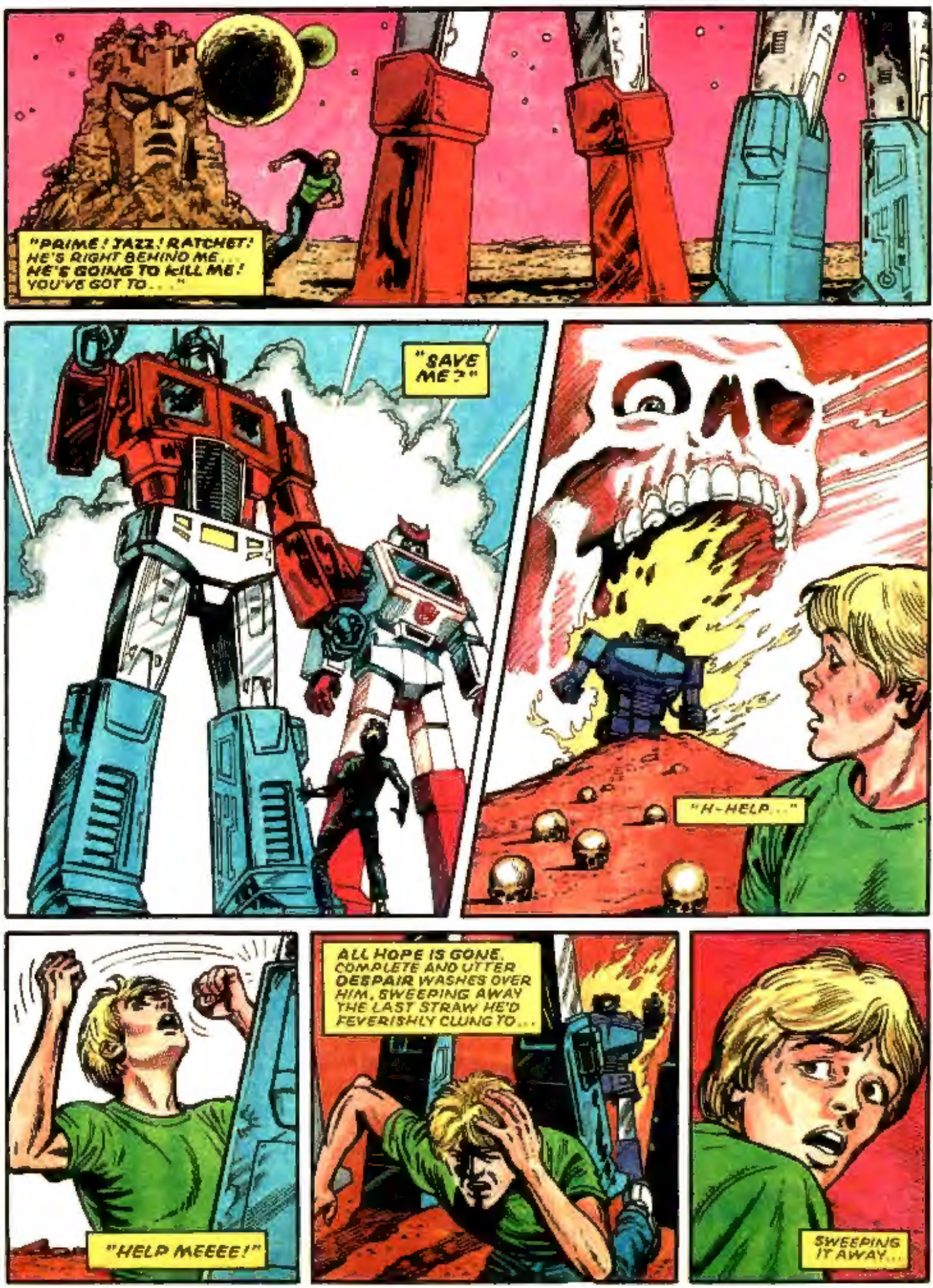
THE TRANSFORMERS™

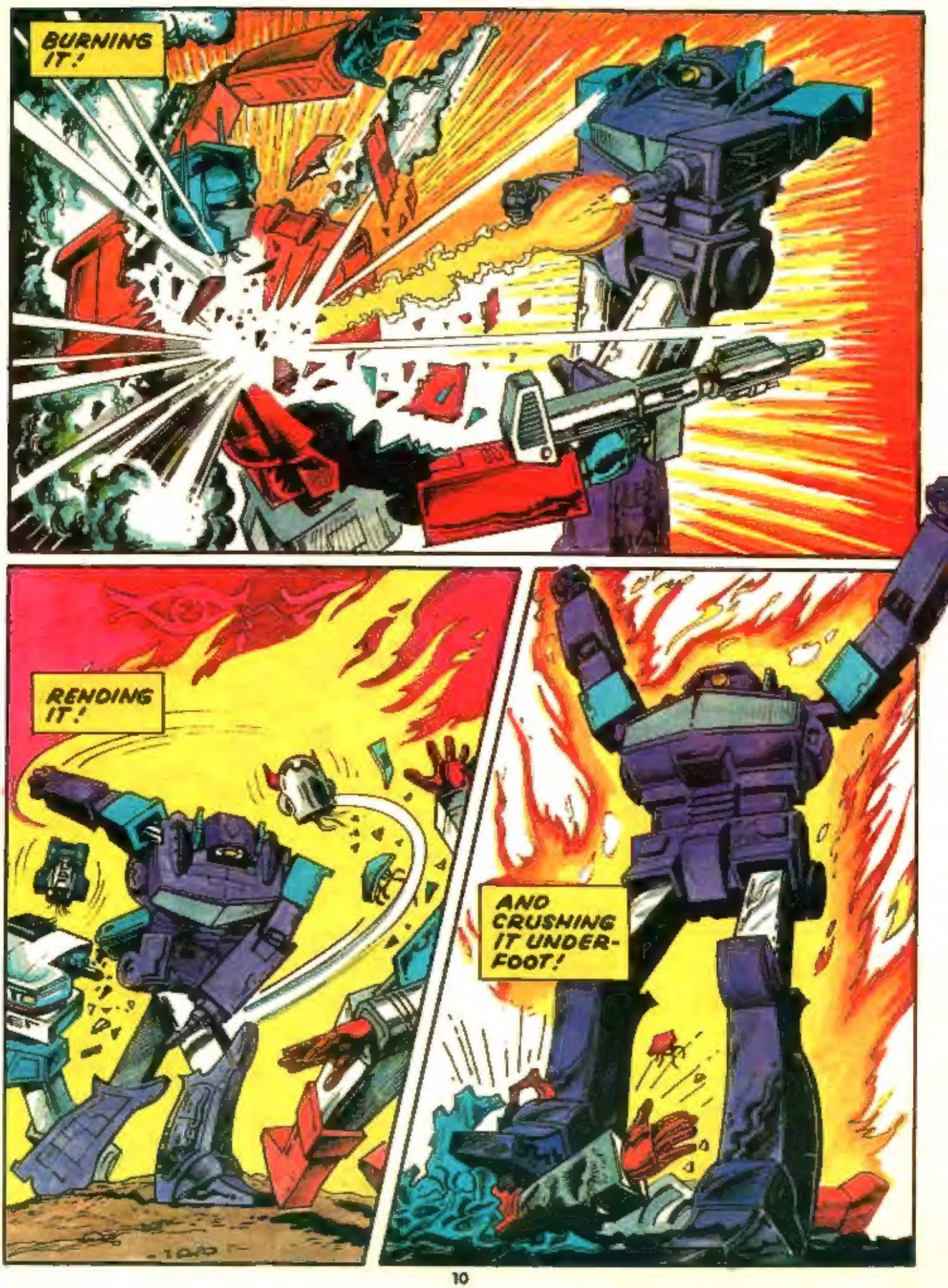
HEROIC AUTOBOT

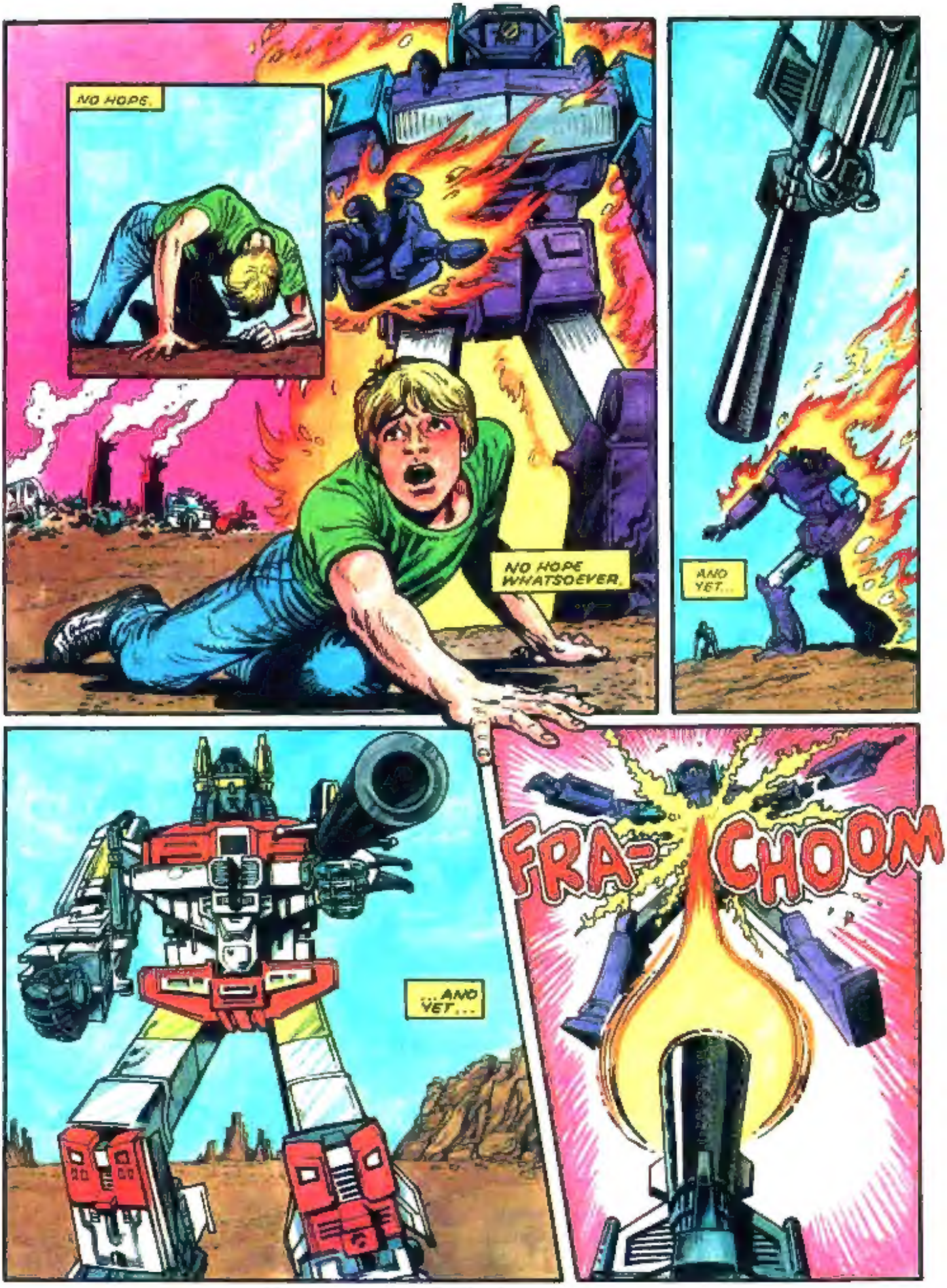
THE INCREDIBLE NEW TEAMS!

TRANSFORMERS™
HE WANTS TO STOP.
LEG MUSCLES SCREAM IN AGONY AS THEY ARE FORCED TO THE LIMITS OF ENDURANCE AND BEYOND. BURNING, OXYGEN-STARVED LUNGS BEG RELEASE FROM THEIR FAMINE BUT ARE DENIED BY A SERE THROAT CONSTRICTED BY STARK, NAKED TERROR.
HE WANTS TO STOP, BUT TO STOP RUNNING MEANS CERTAIN DEATH!
SIMON FURMAN (WRITER)
JOHN STOKES (ARTIST)
MIKE SCOTT (LETTERER)
J. FIRMIN (COLOURIST)
IAN RIMMER (EDITOR)
PRESENT...
SECOND GENERATION!
PART 1

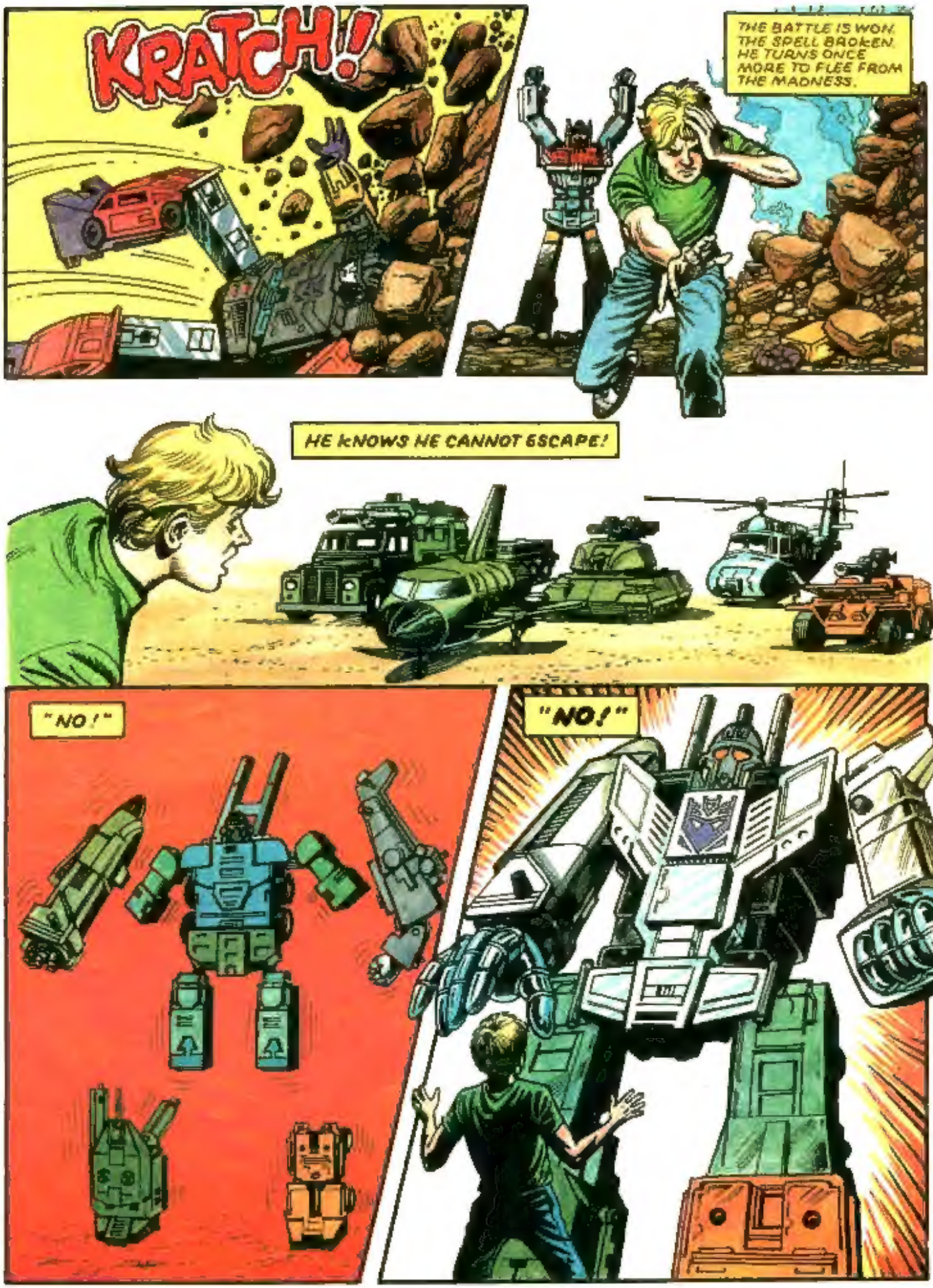
THE DEMON IS COMING FOR HIM – RELENTLESS, UNSTOPPABLE – IT NEVER FALTERS, NEVER TIRES, IT WILL NOT REST UNTIL IT HAS HIM.
HE KNOWS HE CANNOT ESCAPE.
BUT HE...
WILL NOT...
GIVE UP!
HE HAS TO RUN... AND HIDE!
HE HOPES HIS FRIENDS WILL FIND HIM...
HE HOPES THE AUTOBOTS WILL SAVE HIM!


"PRIME! JAZZ! RATCHET! HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME... HE'S GOING TO KILL ME! YOU'VE GOT TO..."
"SAVE ME?"
"H-HELP..."
"HELP MEEEE!"
ALL HOPE IS GONE. COMPLETE AND UTTER DESPAIR WASHES OVER HIM, SWEEPING AWAY THE LAST STRAW HE'D FEVERISHLY CLUNG TO...
SWEEPING IT AWAY...


BURNING IT!
RENDING IT!
AND CRUSHING IT UNDER-FOOT!

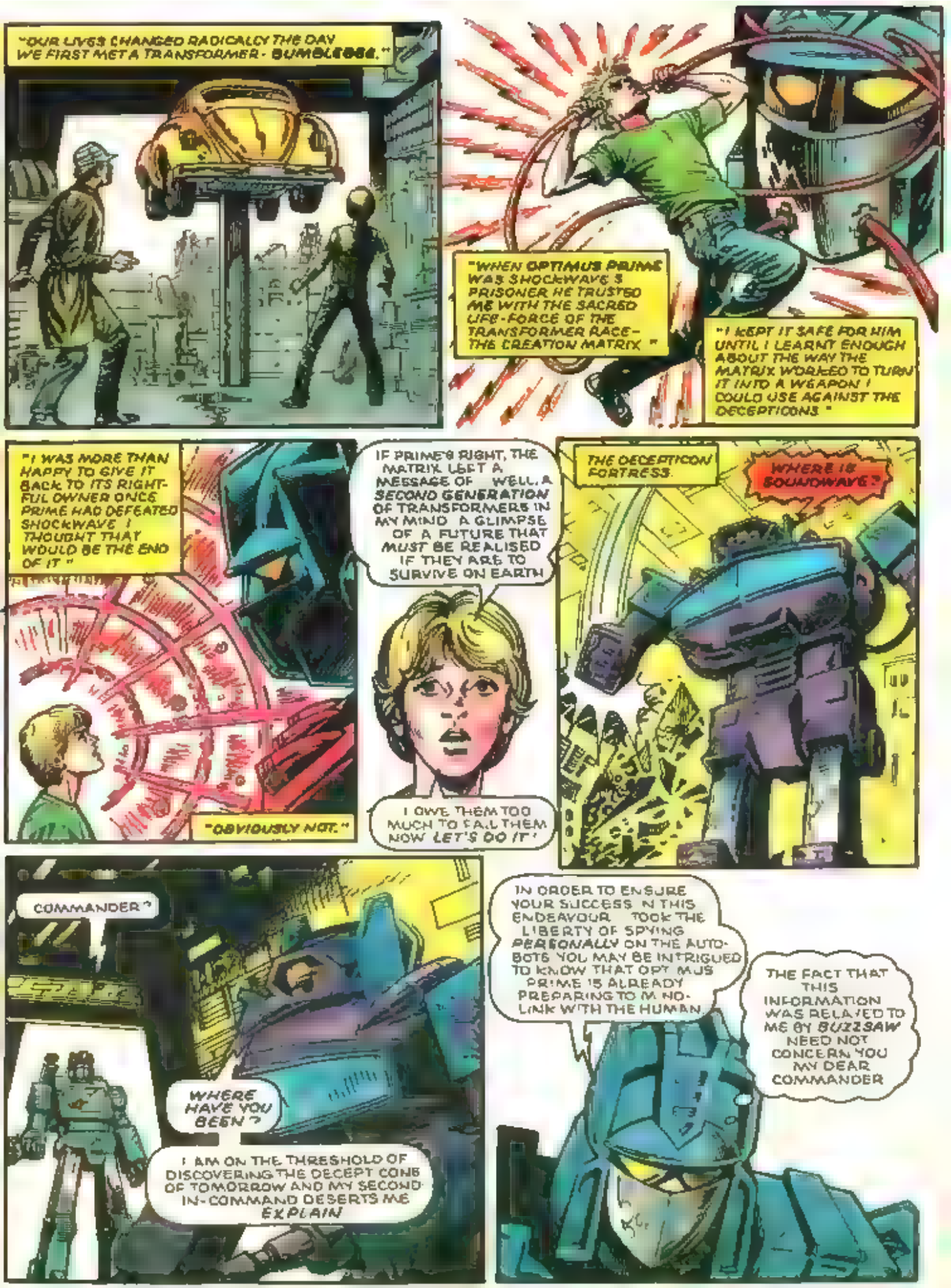

NO HOPE.
NO HOPE WHATSOEVER.
AND YET...
...AND YET...
FRA-
CHOOM

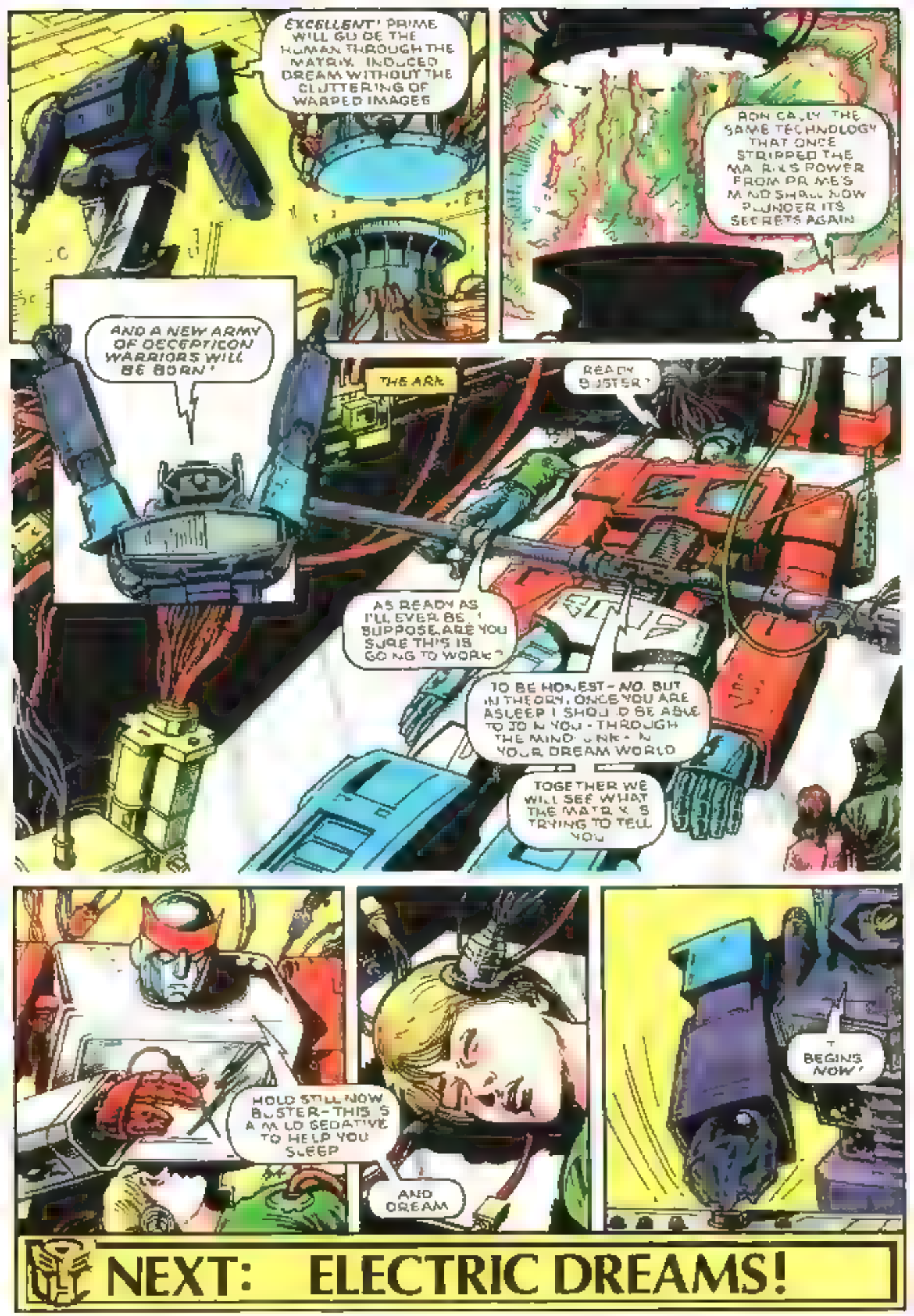
HE HAS BEEN RESCUED. HE DOES NOT RECOGNISE HIS SAVIOUR, BUT THE SIGHT OF AN AUTOBOT INSIGNIA IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HIM HE HAS NOTHING MORE TO FEAR...
HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!
THUNK!
HE WATCHES, MESMERISED, AS THE GIANT DECEPTICON CLOSES IN FOR THE KILL...
AND THE AUTOBOT FIGHTS BACK!
WRUUUUNCH!


KRATCH!
THE BATTLE IS WON. THE SPELL BROKEN. HE TURNS ONCE MORE TO FLEE FROM THE MADNESS.
HE KNOWS HE CANNOT ESCAPE!
"NO!"
"NO!"

NOOOO!
EASY, SON– EASY, YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
NUH... NUH!
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE – IS IT PRIME? THANKS TO YOU IT'S UNLIKELY BUSTER'S EVER GOING TO BE SAFE AGAIN!
BECAUSE OF THIS CREATION MATRIX YOU CASUALLY STORED IN MY SON'S MIND HE'S BECOME A WALKING TARGET!
SPARKPLUG, I...
DON'T YOU 'SPARKPLUG' ME, PRIME! THAT'S MISTER WITWICKY TO YOU, UNDERSTAND? TIME AND AGAIN I'VE TRIED TO GET YOU TO LEAVE BUSTER ALONE, BUT NO – THERE'S ALWAYS 'JUST ONE MORE' THING' YOU WANT FROM HIM!
IF THAT COCKEYED AMBULANCE OF YOURS HADN'T TRICKED ME*, BUSTER'D BE IN A PROPER HOSPITAL, NOT THIS ...THIS REPAIR SHOP OF YOURS. WHERE'S IT ALL GOING TO END?!
D-DAD... IT'S OKAY.
* LAST ISSUE
OPTIMUS ISN'T TO BLAME. IF I HADN'T STUPIDLY TRIED TO PROVE MYSELF THE OTHER DAY* THE DECEPTICONS WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN ME!
BESIDES, A HOSPITAL COULDN'T HELP ME WITH THESE ...NIGHTMARES. I JUST WISH I COULD GET THEM OUT OF MY MIND BEFORE THEY DRIVE ME CRAZY!
* ISSUES 59/60
IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT, BUSTER, WHAT YOU TERM A NIGHTMARE IS IN FACT A MESSAGE...
A COAL MINE IN EASTERN WYOMING.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATION MATRIX! YOU'RE SURE?
COMPLETELY!

MY MIND-SCAN OF THE CARBON-BASED UNIT CALLED BUSTER WITWICKY REVEALED IMAGES OF COMBINATION TRANSFORMERS FAR BEYOND THE LIMITED REACHES OF HIS PSYCHE.
STILL, A HUMAN..!
HEY! HANG ON JUST A MINUTE THERE, MEGATRON. WE HUMANS AREN'T EXACTLY LACKING IN SMARTS, YOU KNOW. TAKE ME FOR EXAMPLE, NOW--
HAVE A CARE FLESHLING!
EACH TIME YOU REMIND ME OF YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE, I QUESTION ONCE MORE MY DECISION TO LET YOU LIVE. YOUR INSULTS AND CLAIMS OF MASTERY STILL RANKLE MY EVERY MICRO-CIRCUIT!
SOUNDWAVE, YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED!
WITH CAUTION, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, SHOCKWAVE IS PREPARING TO TAP INTO THE NEXT SERIES OF IMAGES FROM THE HUMAN'S MIND!
GOOD. RETURN TO SHOCKWAVE NOW - AND AID HIM IN HIS ENDEAVOURS. WHEN HE HAS DECIPHERED THE MATRIX'S MESSAGE...
BRING IT TO ME!
MOUNT ST. HILARY.
WHAT DO YOU RECKON I SHOULD DO, DAD?
THAT'S GOTTA BE YOUR DECISION, BUSTER!
BUT IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THIS SCHEME OF PRIME'S YOU MIGHT WISH YOU'D PUT UP WITH THE NIGHTMARES. THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME FOR YOU AGAIN!
YEAH... BUT LET'S FACE IT, THINGS HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN NORMAL FOR THE PAST YEAR, HAVE THEY?


"OUR LIVES CHANGED RADICALLY THE DAY WE FIRST MET A TRANSFORMER - BUMBLEBEE."
"WHEN OPTIMUS PRIME WAS SHOCKWAVE'S PRISONER HE TRUSTED ME WITH THE SACRED LIFE-FORCE OF THE TRANSFORMER RACE - THE CREATION MATRIX."
"I KEPT IT SAFE FOR HIM UNTIL I LEARNT ENOUGH ABOUT THE WAY THE MATRIX WORKED TO TURN IT INTO A WEAPON I COULD USE AGAINST THE DECEPTICONS."
"I WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO GIVE IT BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER ONCE PRIME HAD DEFEATED SHOCKWAVE. I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT."
"OBVIOUSLY NOT."
IF PRIME'S RIGHT, THE MATRIX LEFT A MESSAGE OF... WELL, A SECOND GENERATION OF TRANSFORMERS IN MY MIND. A GLIMPSE OF A FUTURE THAT MUST BE REALISED IF THEY ARE TO SURVIVE ON EARTH.
I OWE THEM TOO MUCH TO FAIL THEM NOW. LET'S DO IT!
THE DECEPTICON FORTRESS.
WHERE IS SOUNDWAVE?
COMMANDER?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I AM ON THE THRESHOLD OF DISCOVERING THE DECEPT CONS OF TOMORROW AND MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND DESERTS ME. EXPLAIN.
IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOUR, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SPYING PERSONALLY ON THE AUTOBOTS. YOU MAY BE INTRIGUED TO KNOW THAT OPTIMUS PRIME IS ALREADY PREPARING TO MAKE LINK WITH THE HUMAN...
THE FACT THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS RELAYED TO ME BY BUZZSAW NEED NOT CONCERN YOU, MY DEAR COMMANDER.


EXCELLENT! PRIME WILL GO BE THE HUMAN THROUGH THE MATRIX INDUCED DREAM WITHOUT THE CLUTTERING OF WARPED IMAGES
RON CAULY THE SAME TECHNOLOGY THAT ONCE STRIPPED THE MATRIX'S POWER FROM PRIME'S MIND SHALL NOW PLUNDER ITS SECRETS AGAIN
AND A NEW ARMY OF DECEPTICON WARRIORS WILL BE BORN!
THE ARK
READY BUSTER?
AS READY AS I'LL EVER BE. I SUPPOSE. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
TO BE HONEST - NO. BUT IN THEORY, ONCE YOU ARE ASLEEP I SHOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU - THROUGH THE MIND LINK - IN YOUR DREAM WORLD
TOGETHER WE WILL SEE WHAT THE MATRIX IS TRYING TO TELL YOU
HOLD STILL NOW BUSTER - THIS IS A MILD SEDATIVE TO HELP YOU SLEEP
AND DREAM
IT BEGINS NOW!
NEXT: ELECTRIC DREAMS!

MARVEL

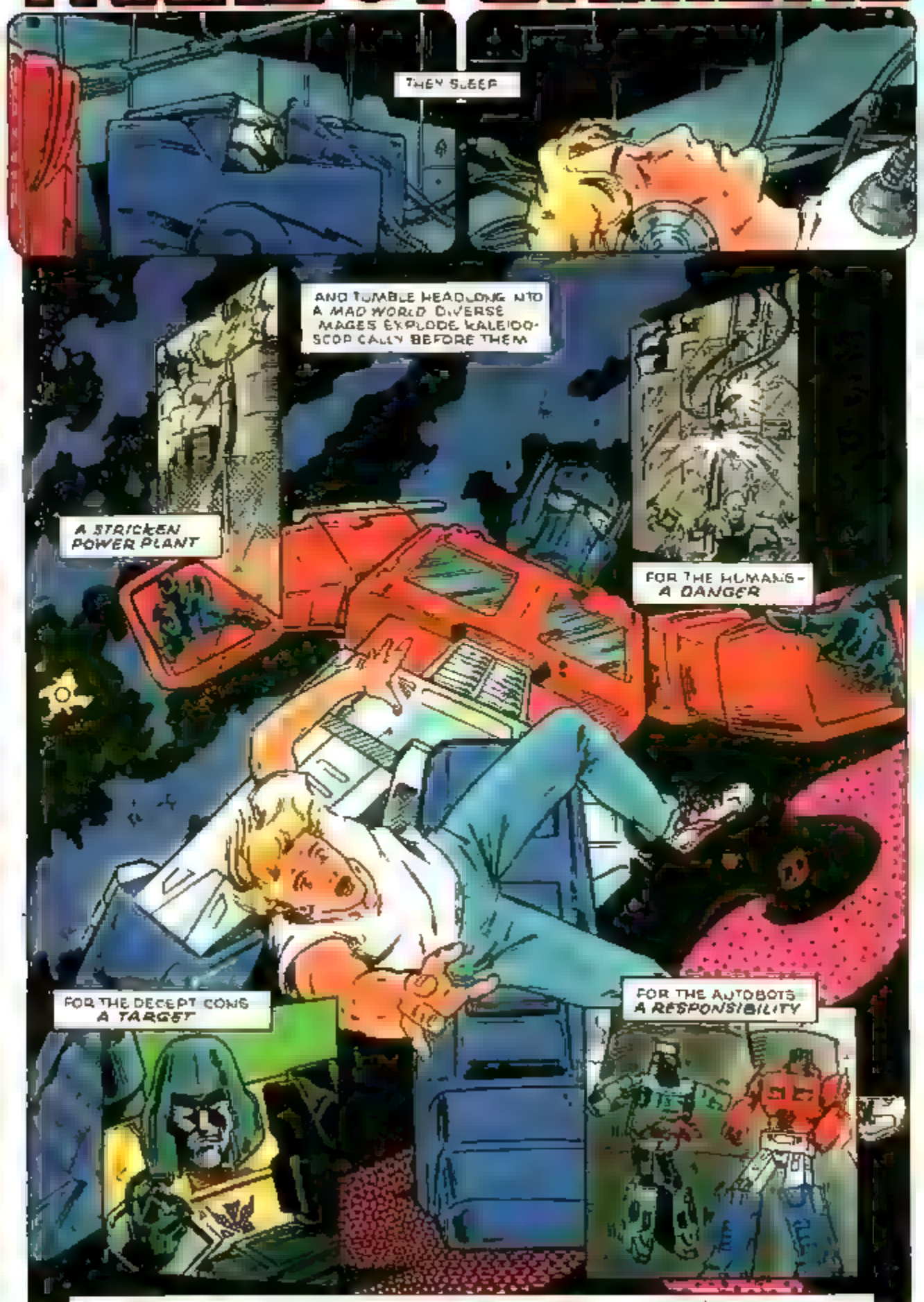
FREE SPECIAL TEAMS CARD - INSIDE!

THE TRANSFORMERS™

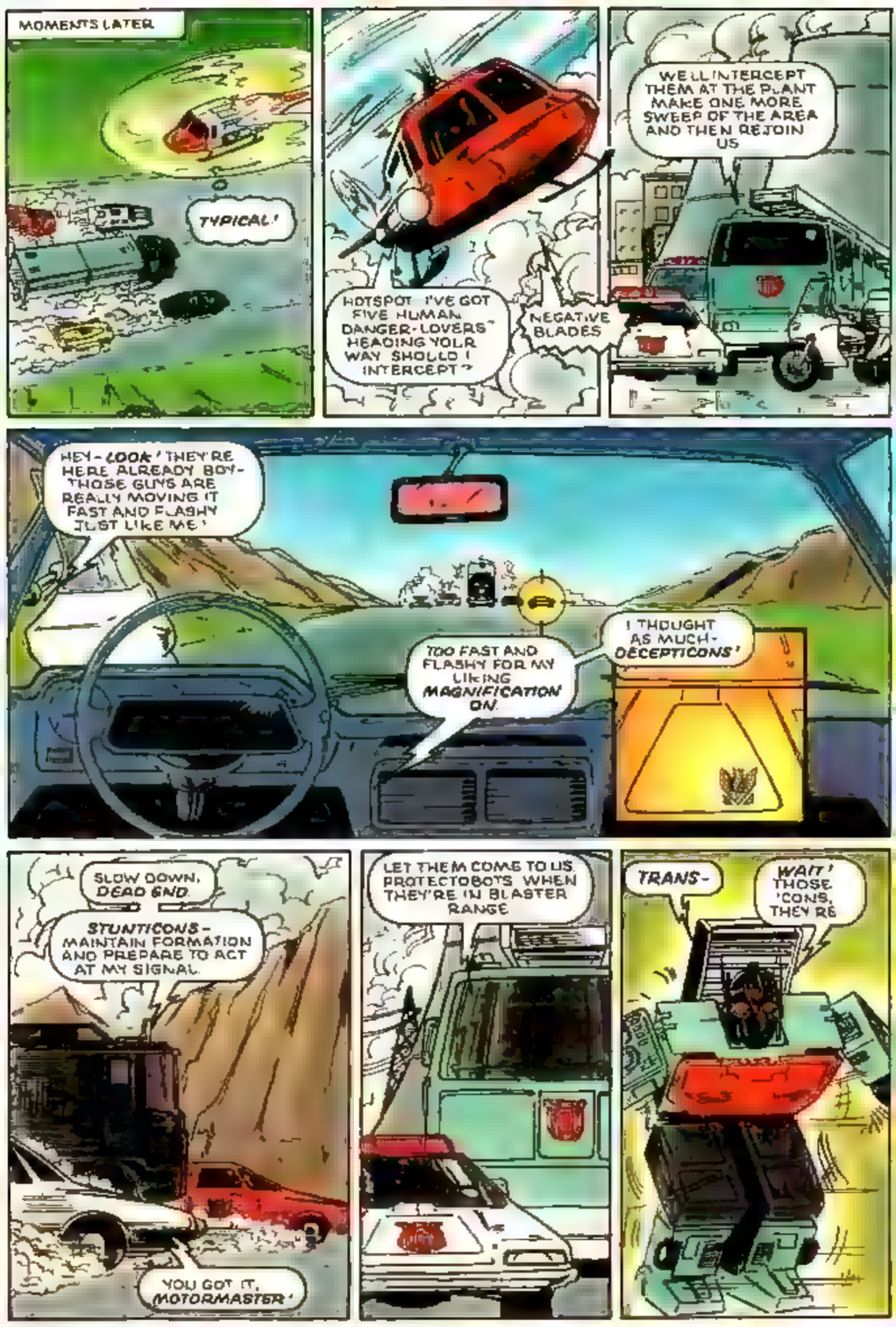
HEROIC AUTOBOT

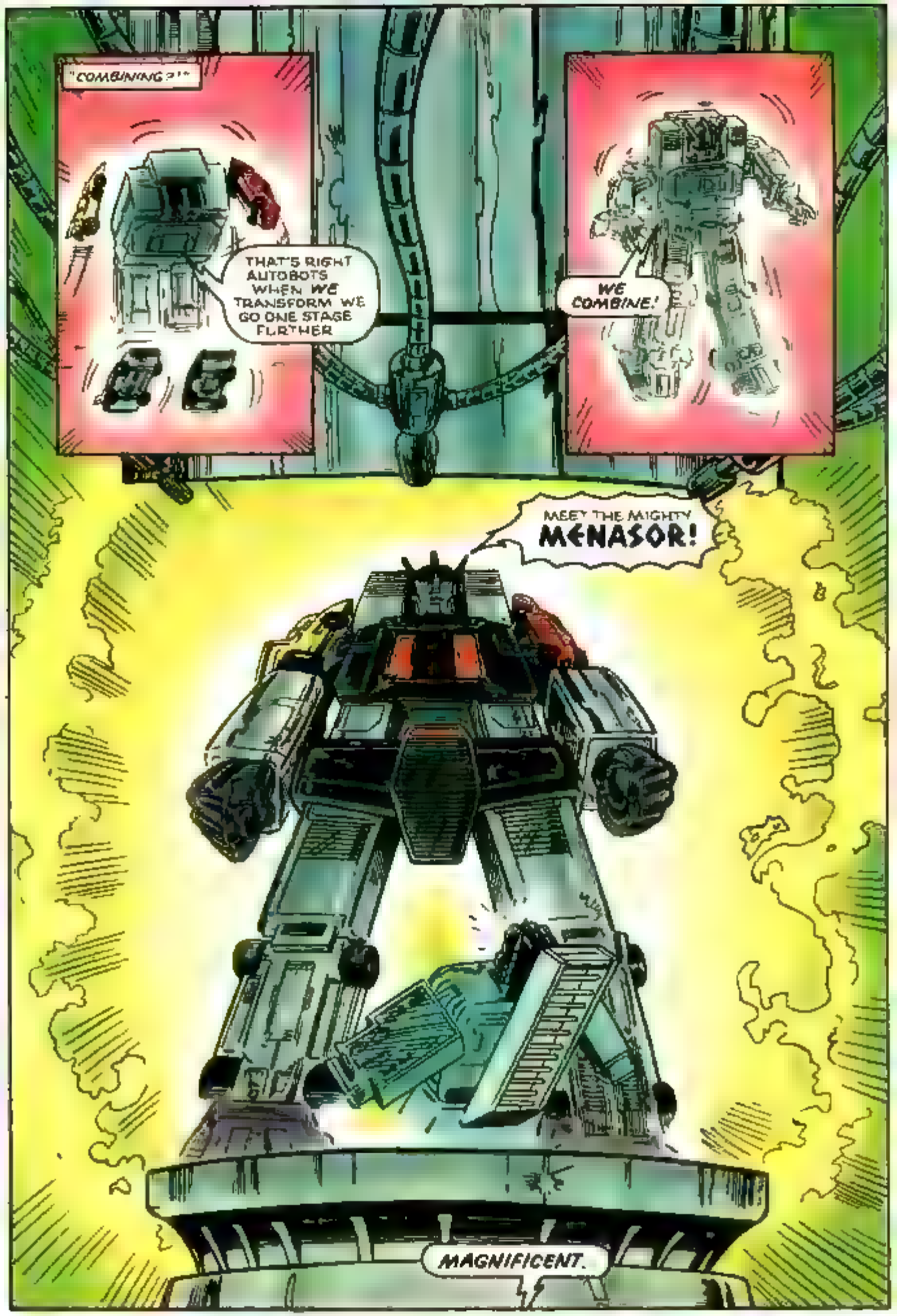
ALL IN THE MIND..!

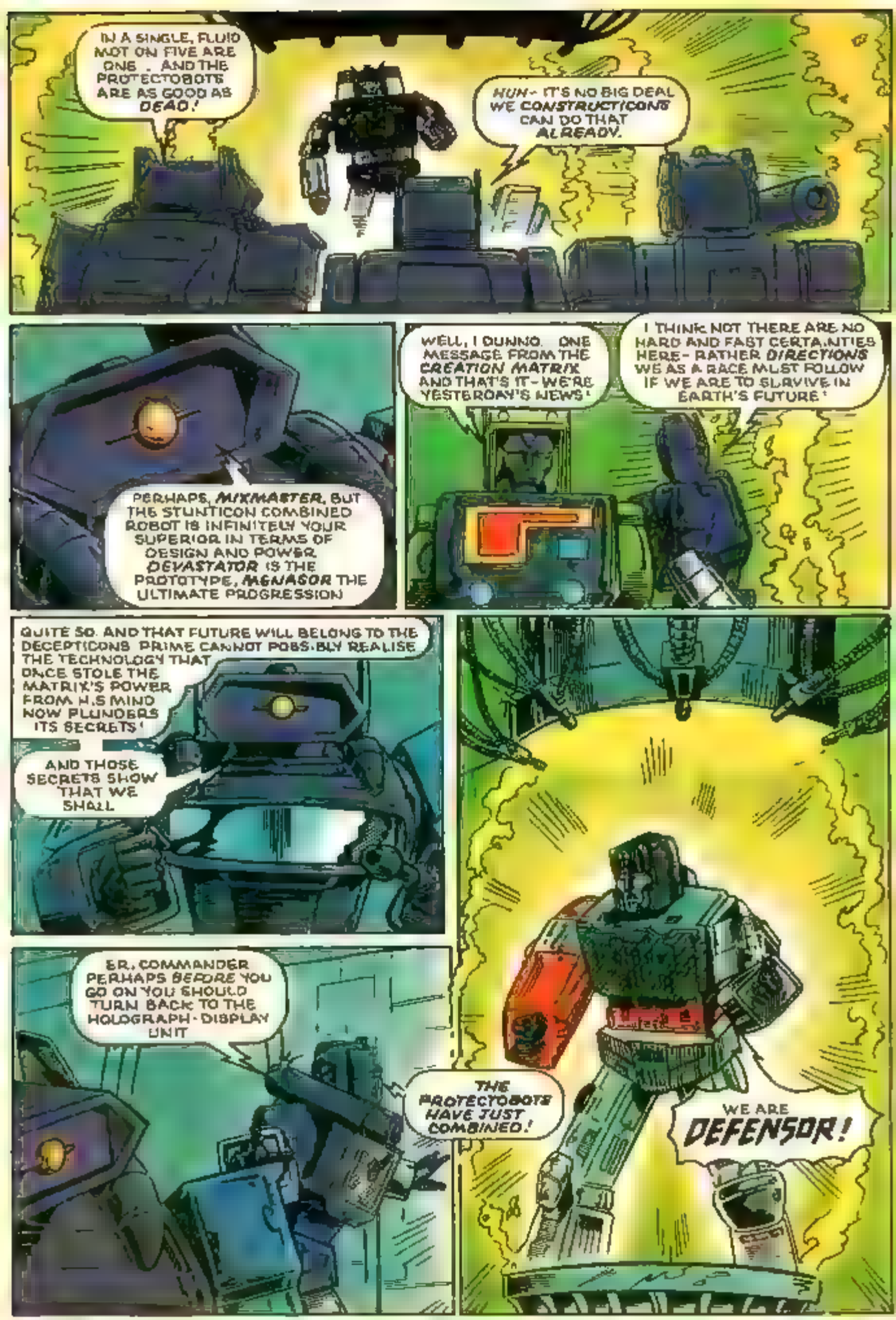
TRANSFORMERS

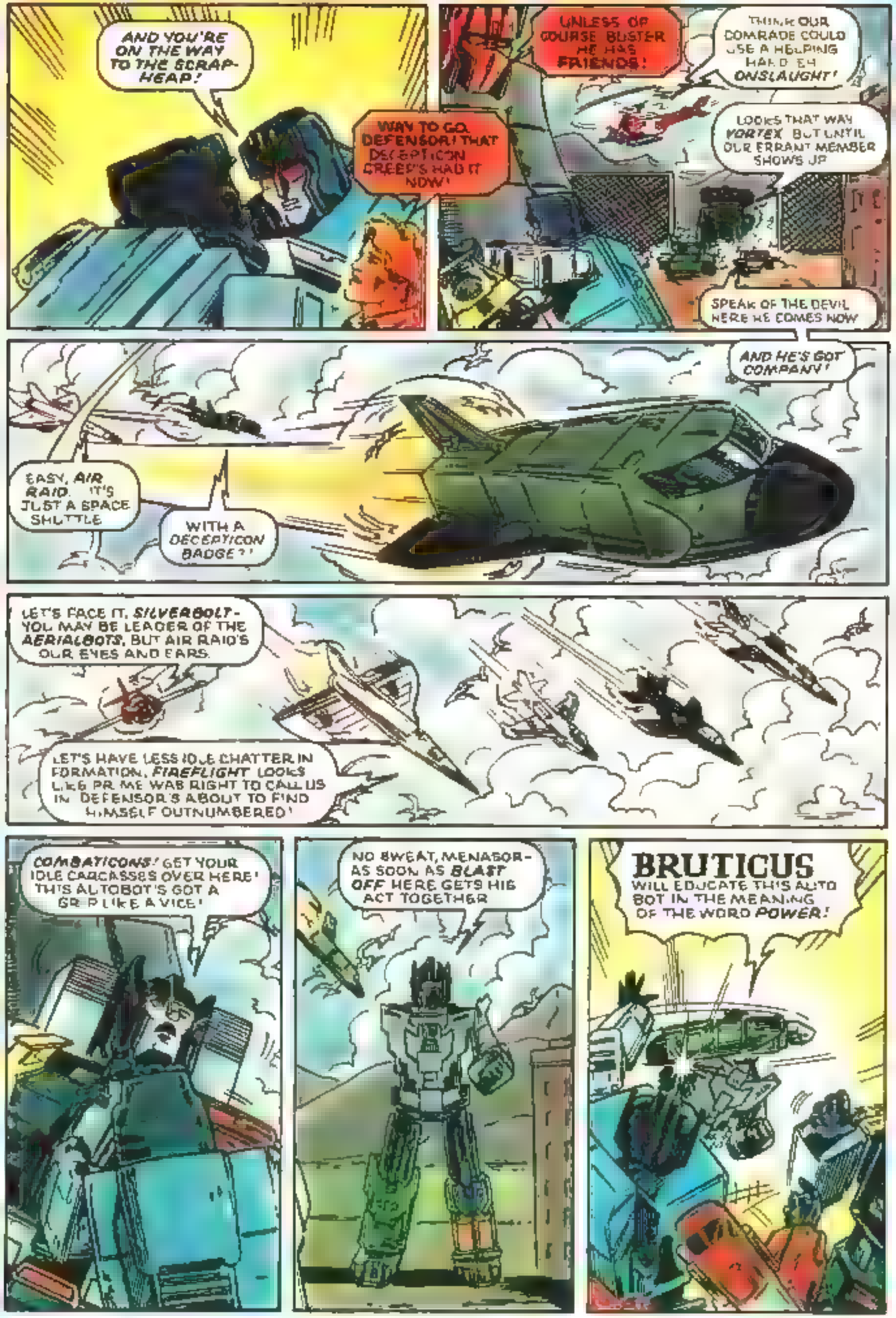

THEY SLEEP
AND TUMBLE HEADLONG INTO A MAD WORLD. DIVERSE IMAGES EXPLODE KALEIDOSCOPICALLY BEFORE THEM
A STRICKEN POWER PLANT
FOR THE HUMANS - A DANGER
FOR THE DECEPTICONS A TARGET
FOR THE AUTOBOTS A RESPONSIBILITY
SCRIPT FURMAN ART KITSON / PERKINS LETTERS SCOTT COLOURS WEP EDITS RIMMER

FOR OPTIMUS PRIME AND BUSTER WITWICKY - IT IS THE FUTURE OF THE TRANSFORMER RACE!
PROTECTOBOTS - REPORT!
FIRST AID'S FIT AND READY, HOTSPOT
SAME GOES FOR BLADES
STREETWISE IS JUST ITCHING TO BUST SOME DECEPTICON HEADS
NOW YOU'RE TALKING MY LANGUAGE! BUT DON'T FORGET THAT GROOVE WANTS IN ON THE ACTION TOO
SECOND GENERATION!
PART TWO
YES, WELL LET'S JUST SEE THAT ALL THE HUMANS HAVE BEEN SAFELY EVACUATED FIRST!
WOW! THESE GUYS ARE NEAT!
PROTECTOBOTS - TRANSFORM
AND ROLL OUT!
THEY ARE MORE THAN NEAT, BUSTER QUIET NOW LET US OBSERVE WHAT TRANSPIRES.


MOMENTS LATER
TYPICAL!
HOTSPOT - I'VE GOT FIVE HUMAN DANGER-LOVERS HEADING YOUR WAY SHOULD I INTERCEPT?
NEGATIVE BLADES
WE'LL INTERCEPT THEM AT THE PLANT MAKE ONE MORE SWEEP OF THE AREA AND THEN REJOIN US
HEY - LOOK! THEY'RE HERE ALREADY BOY - THOSE GUYS ARE REALLY MOVING IT FAST AND FLASHY JUST LIKE ME!
TOO FAST AND FLASHY FOR MY LIKING MAGNIFICATION ON.
I THOUGHT AS MUCH - DECEPTICONS!
SLOW DOWN, DEAD END.
STUNTICONS - MAINTAIN FORMATION AND PREPARE TO ACT AT MY SIGNAL.
YOU GOT IT, MOTORMASTER!
LET THEM COME TO US. PROTECTOBOTS WHEN THEY'RE IN BLASTER RANGE
TRANS-
WAIT! THOSE 'CONS, THEY'RE

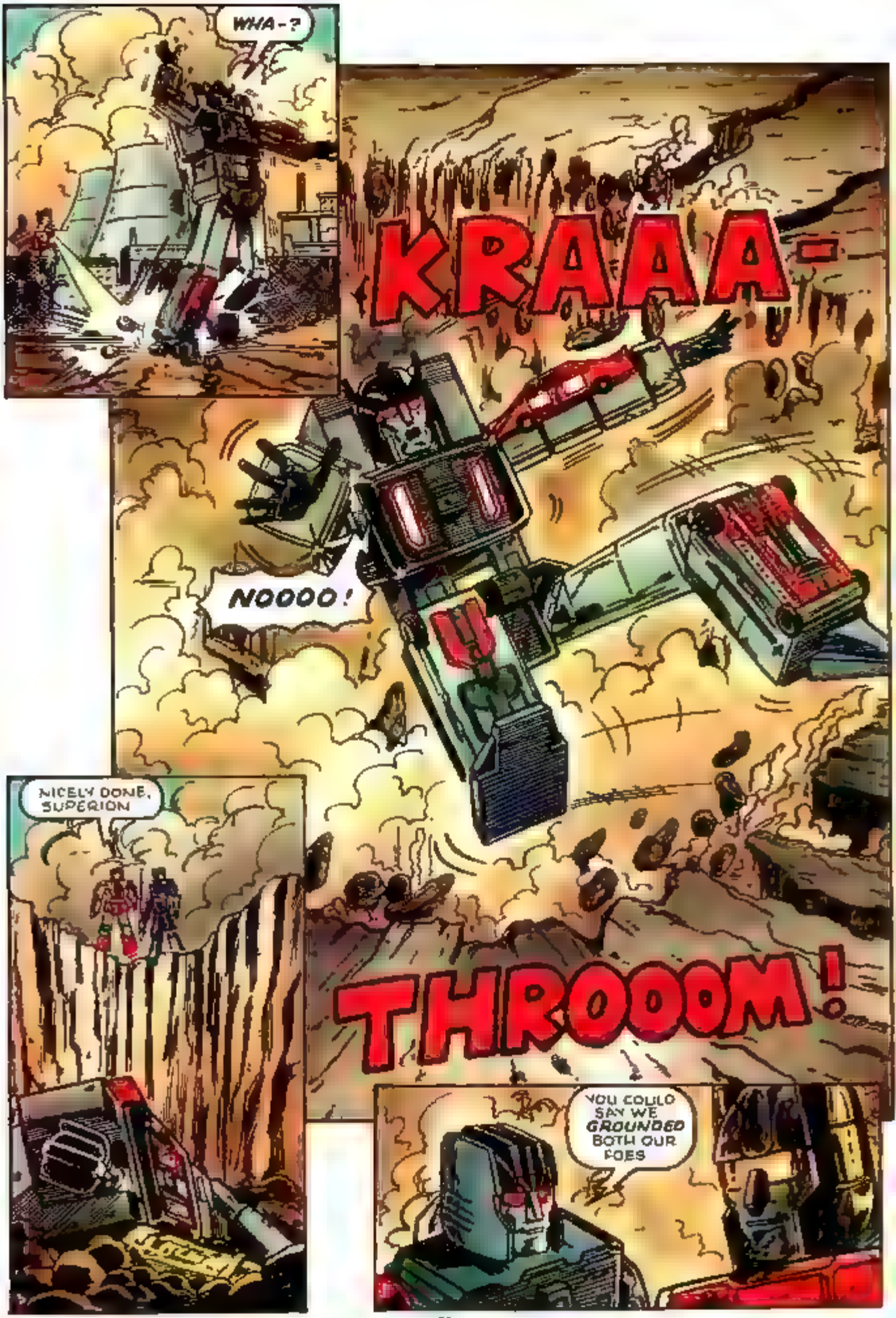

"COMBINING?!"
THAT'S RIGHT AUTOBOTS WHEN WE TRANSFORM WE GO ONE STAGE FURTHER
WE COMBINE!
MEET THE MIGHTY MENASOR!
MAGNIFICENT.

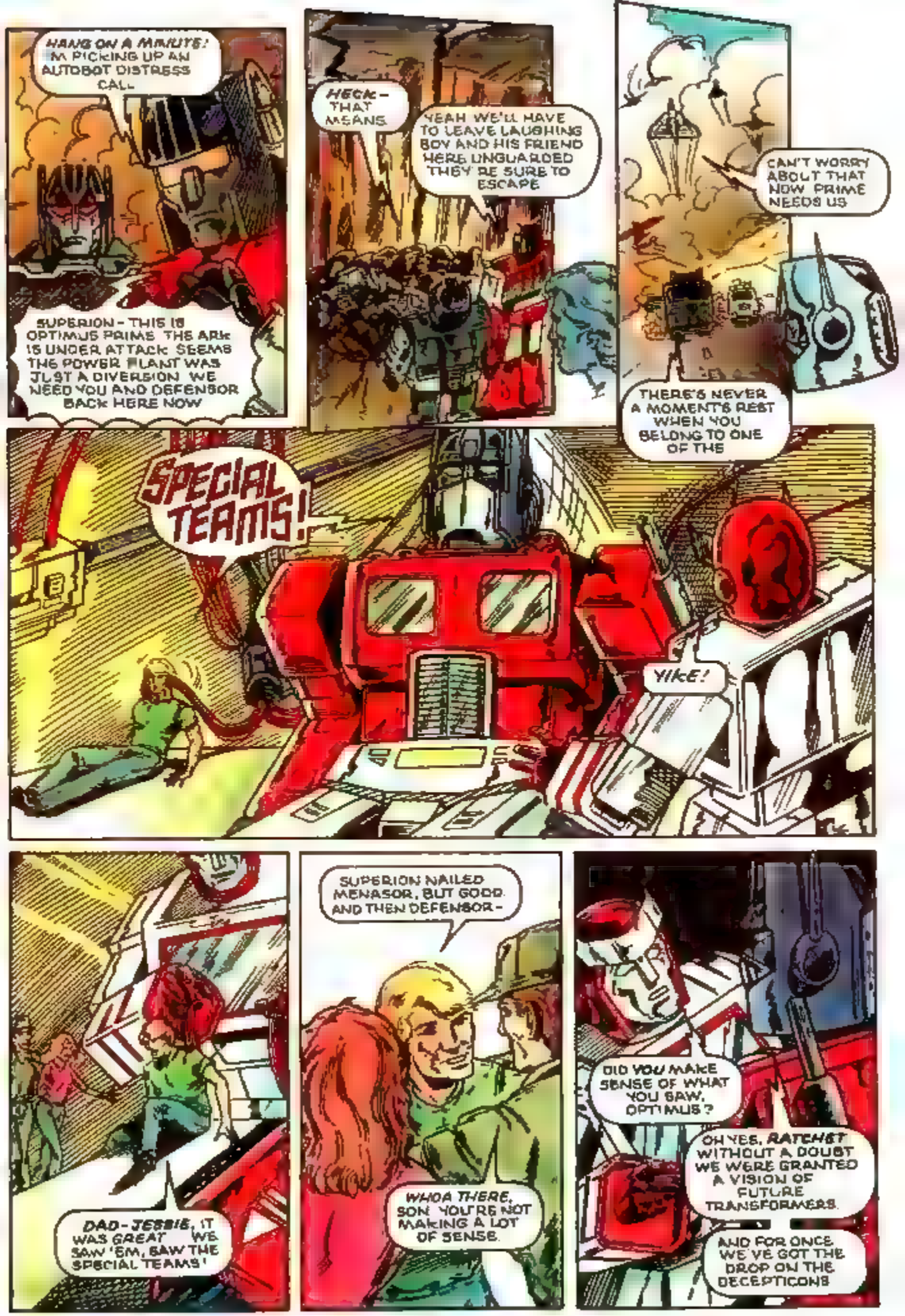

IN A SINGLE, FLUID MOT ON FIVE ARE ONE . AND THE PROTECTOBOTS ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
HUH- IT'S NO BIG DEAL WE CONSTRUCTICONS CAN DO THAT ALREADY.
PERHAPS, MIXMASTER, BUT THE STUNTICON COMBINED ROBOT IS INFINITELY YOUR SUPERIOR IN TERMS OF DESIGN AND POWER. DEVASTATOR IS THE PROTOTYPE, MENASOR THE ULTIMATE PROGRESSION
WELL, I DUNNO. ONE MESSAGE FROM THE CREATION MATRIX AND THAT'S IT- WE'RE YESTERDAY'S NEWS!
I THINK NOT THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST CERTAINTIES HERE- RATHER DIRECTIONS WE AS A RACE MUST FOLLOW IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE IN EARTH'S FUTURE!
QUITE SO. AND THAT FUTURE WILL BELONG TO THE DECEPTICONS PRIME CANNOT POSSIBLY REALISE THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ONCE STOLE THE MATRIX'S POWER FROM HIS MIND NOW PLUNDERS ITS SECRETS!
AND THOSE SECRETS SHOW THAT WE SHALL
ER, COMMANDER PERHAPS BEFORE YOU GO ON YOU SHOULD TURN BACK TO THE HOLOGRAPH-DISPLAY UNIT
THE PROTECTOBOTS HAVE JUST COMBINED!
WE ARE DEFENSOR!

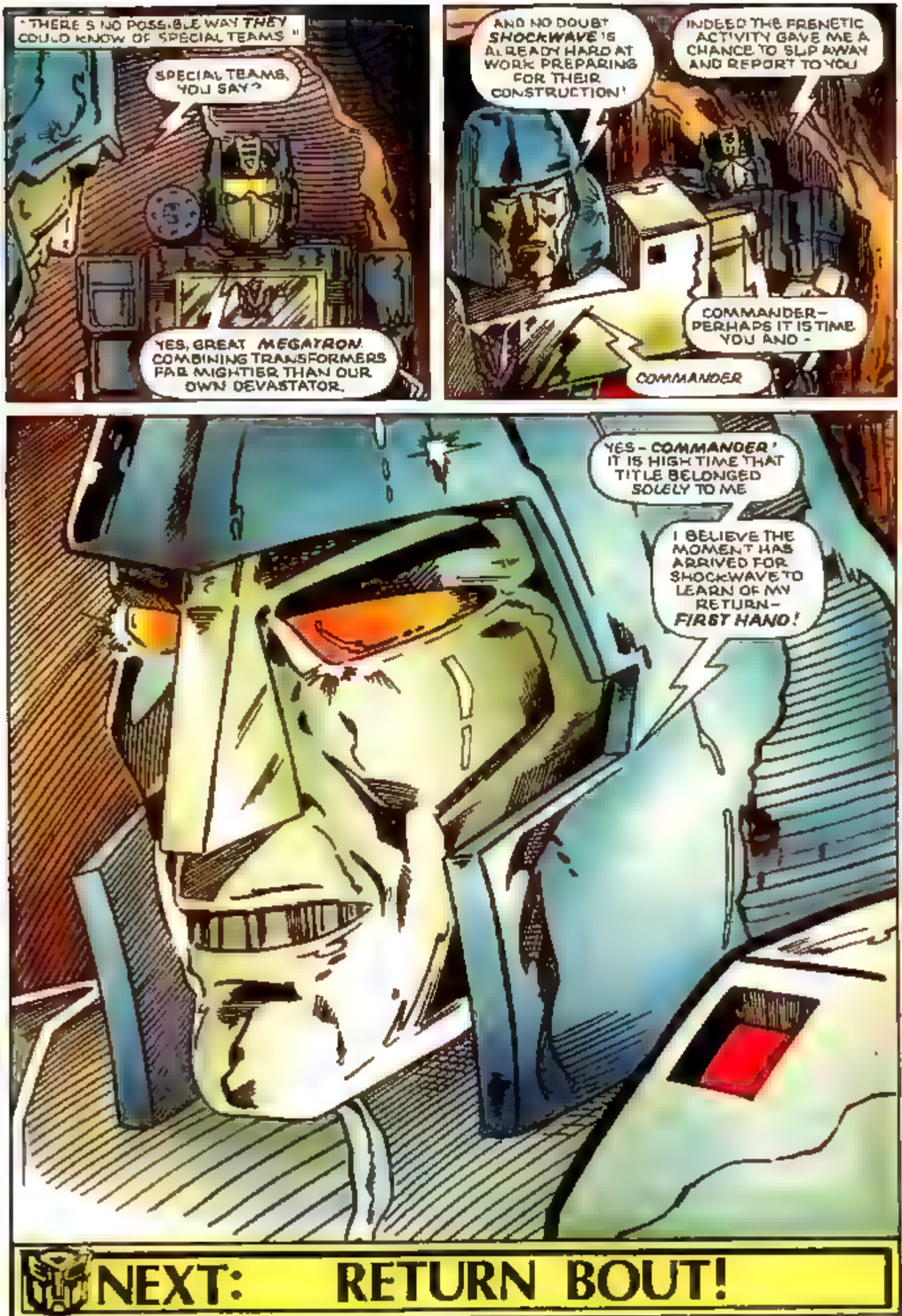

AND YOU'RE ON THE WAY TO THE SCRAP-HEAP!
WAY TO GO, DEFENSOR! THAT DECEPTICON CREEP'S HAD IT NOW!
UNLESS OF COURSE BUSTER HE HAS FRIENDS!
THINK OUR COMRADE COULD USE A HELPING HAND EH ONSLAUGHT!
LOOKS THAT WAY VORTEX BUT UNTIL OUR ERRANT MEMBER SHOWS UP
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL HERE HE COMES NOW
AND HE'S GOT COMPANY!
EASY, AIR RAID. IT'S JUST A SPACE SHUTTLE
WITH A DECEPTICON BADGE?!
LET'S FACE IT, SILVERBOLT - YOU MAY BE LEADER OF THE AERIALBOTS, BUT AIR RAID'S OUR EYES AND EARS.
LET'S HAVE LESS IDLE CHATTER IN FORMATION, FIREFLIGHT. LOOKS LIKE PR ME WAS RIGHT TO CALL US IN. DEFENSOR'S ABOUT TO FIND HIMSELF OUTNUMBERED!
COMBATICONS! GET YOUR IDLE CARCASSES OVER HERE! THIS AUTOBOT'S GOT A GRIP LIKE A VICE!
NO SWEAT, MENASOR - AS SOON AS BLAST OFF HERE GETS HIS ACT TOGETHER
BRUTICUS
WILL EDUCATE THIS AUTOBOT IN THE MEANING OF THE WORD POWER!

THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE
AIR RAID, FIRE-FLIGHT SLINGSHOT, SKYDIVE - FORM ON ME AND
COMBINE!
THRUNNG!
UNNGH... WHO THE
THE NAME'S SUPERION, DECEPTICON. SURRENDER AND I'LL
FAT CHANCE!
TAKE HIM OUT. DEAD END!
DON'T ORDER ME ABOUT! I KNOW WHAT TO DO!
BY THE PRIMORDIAL PROGRAM! FIIIIRE!
TOO LATE!
BRAIK!
NO! BRUTICUS-

"WATCH OUT!"
GHAAA!
KROOOOM!
MY THANKS, SUPERION. NOW IT ONLY REMAINS FOR DEFENSOR TO DELIVER
THE COUP DE GRACE!
THRA-CHAK!
CURSE YOU, AUTOBOTS- YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING
OOOF!
HOWEVER AS I'VE NO WISH TO SHARE MY COMRADE'S FATE, I'LL BE LEAVING YOU!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
OH NO HE'S NOT!
NOT IF MY STRESS FRACTURE CANNON HAS ANY SAY IN THE MATTER!


WHA-?
KRAAA-
NOOOO!
THROOOM!
NICELY DONE, SUPERION
YOU COULD SAY WE GROUNDED BOTH OUR FOES

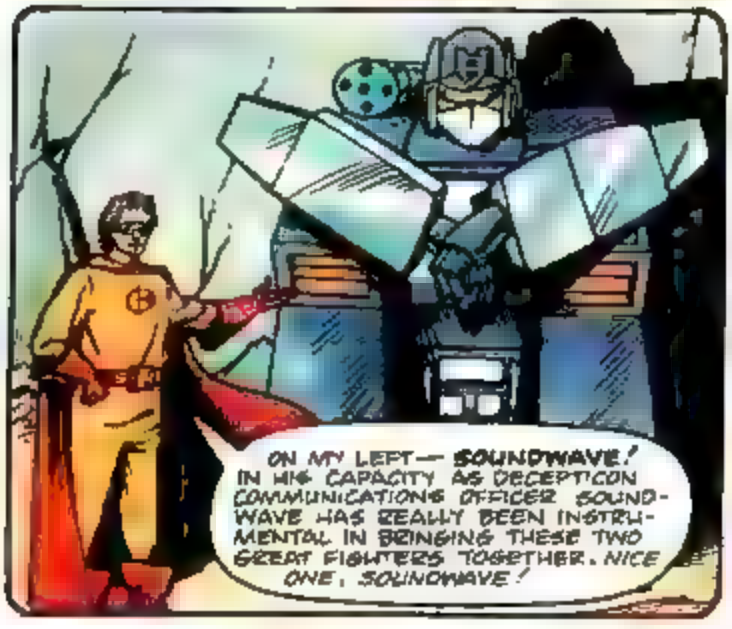

HANG ON A MINUTE! I'M PICKING UP AN AUTOBOT DISTRESS CALL
SUPERION - THIS IS OPTIMUS PRIME. THE ARK IS UNDER ATTACK. SEEMS THE POWER PLANT WAS JUST A DIVERSION. WE NEED YOU AND DEFENSOR BACK HERE NOW
HECK - THAT MEANS
YEAH. WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE LAUGHING BOY AND HIS FRIEND HERE UNGUARDED. THEY'RE SURE TO ESCAPE
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. PRIME NEEDS US
THERE'S NEVER A MOMENT'S REST WHEN YOU BELONG TO ONE OF THE
SPECIAL TEAMS!
YIKE!
DAD - JESSIE, IT WAS GREAT. WE SAW 'EM, SAW THE SPECIAL TEAMS!
SUPERION NAILED MENASOR, BUT GOOD. AND THEN DEFENSOR -
WHOA THERE, SON. YOU'RE NOT MAKING A LOT OF SENSE.
DID YOU MAKE SENSE OF WHAT YOU SAW, OPTIMUS?
OH YES, RATCHET. WITHOUT A DOUBT WE WERE GRANTED A VISION OF FUTURE TRANSFORMERS.
AND FOR ONCE, WE'VE GOT THE DROP ON THE DECEPTICONS

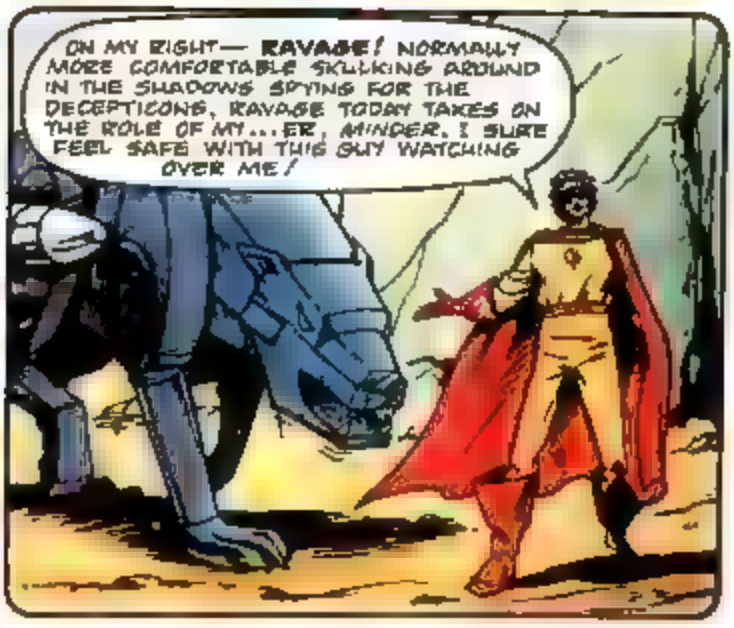

"THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY THEY COULD KNOW OF SPECIAL TEAMS"
SPECIAL TEAMS, YOU SAY?
YES, GREAT MEGATRON. COMBINING TRANSFORMERS FAR MIGHTIER THAN OUR OWN DEVASTATOR.
AND NO DOUBT SHOCKWAVE IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK PREPARING FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION!
INDEED THE FRENETIC ACTIVITY GAVE ME A CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY AND REPORT TO YOU
COMMANDER— PERHAPS IT IS TIME YOU AND —
COMMANDER
YES — COMMANDER! IT IS HIGH TIME THAT TITLE BELONGED SOLELY TO ME
I BELIEVE THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED FOR SHOCKWAVE TO LEARN OF MY RETURN— FIRST HAND!
NEXT: RETURN BOUT!

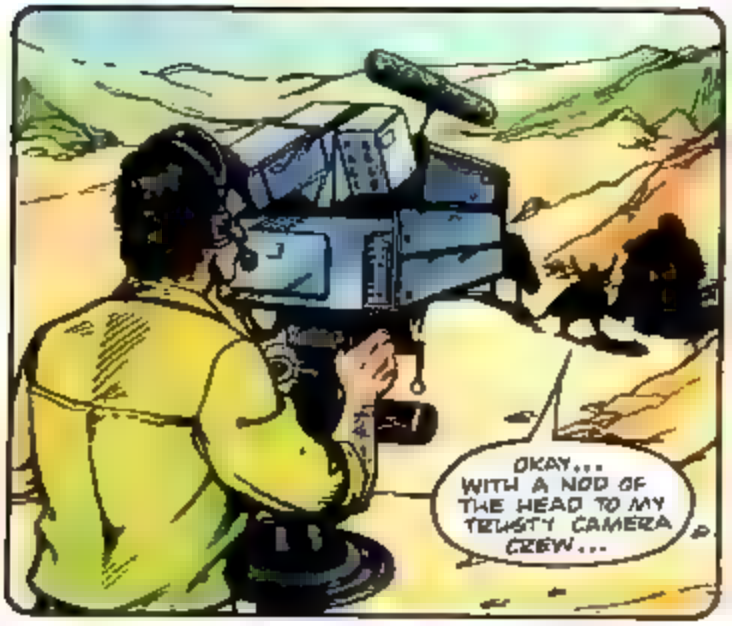
MARVEL
FREE
SPECIAL TEAM
CHARACTER
CARD
INSIDE!
14th Jun. 86
No.65 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC
AUTOBOT
SECONDS
OUT --
ROUND
TWO!

TRANSFORMERS™

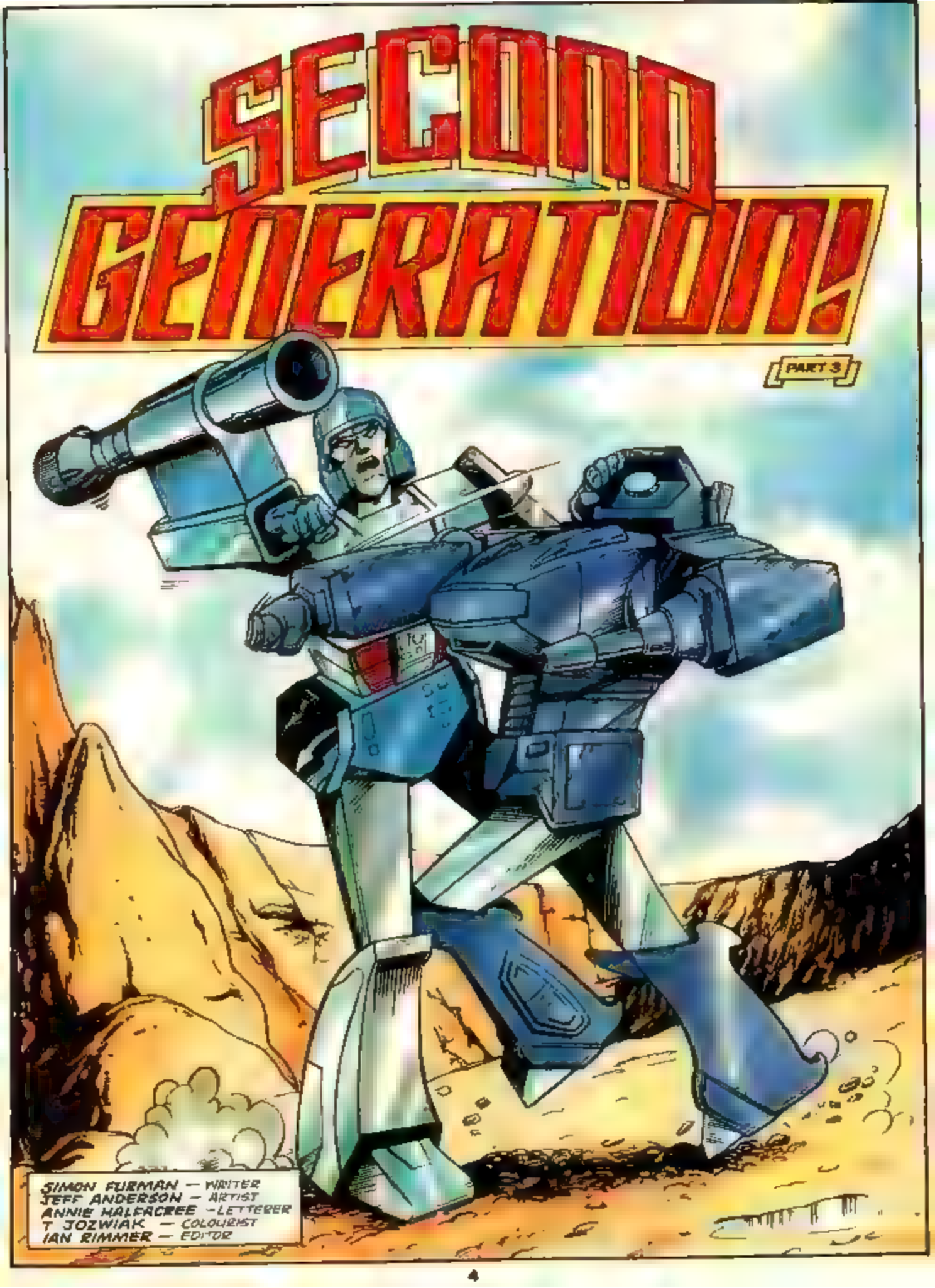
AN UNUSUAL VENUE, BUT THEN UNUSUAL JUST ABOUT SUMS UP OUR TWO FIGHTERS.
I'M ROBOT-MASTER AND BEFORE I TAKE YOU OVER — LIVE — TO THE CONTENDERS FOR THE TITLE 'COMMANDER OF THE DECEPTICONS', I'D JUST LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE REST OF MY COMMENTATING TEAM...


ON MY LEFT— SOUNDWAVE! IN HIS CAPACITY AS DECEPTICON COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER SOUNDWAVE HAS REALLY BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THESE TWO GREAT FIGHTERS TOGETHER. NICE ONE, SOUNDWAVE!


ON MY RIGHT— RAVAGE! NORMALLY MORE COMFORTABLE SKULKING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS SPYING FOR THE DECEPTICONS, RAVAGE TODAY TAKES ON THE ROLE OF MY...ER, MINDER. I SURE FEEL SAFE WITH THIS GUY WATCHING OVER ME!



IT'S OVER— WITHOUT FURTHER ADO — TO THE FIGHTERS THEMSELVES. DEFENDING CHAMPION — SHOCKWAVE — VERSUS EX TITLE HOLDER — MEGATRON!
TAKE IT AWAY, BOYS...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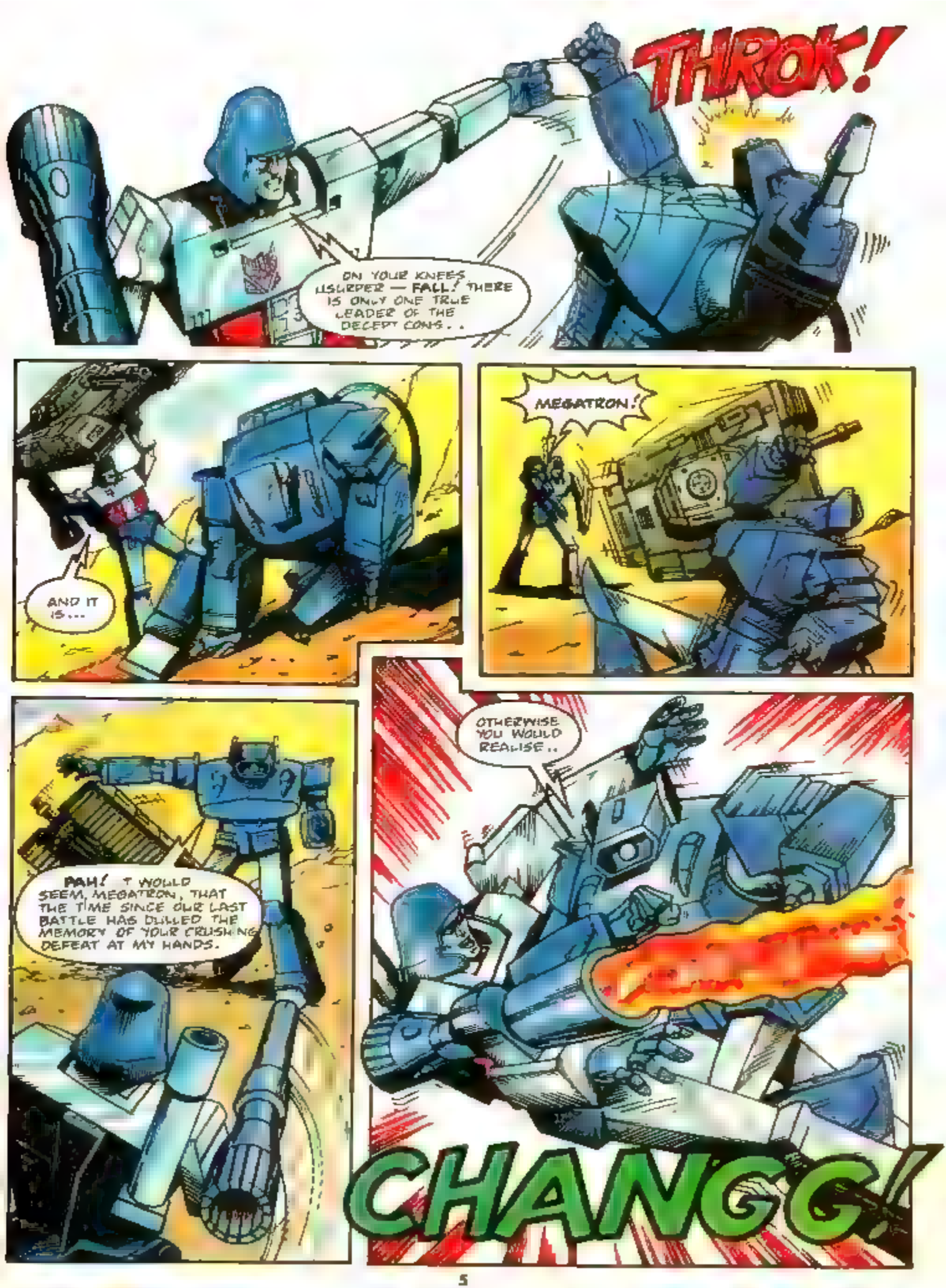
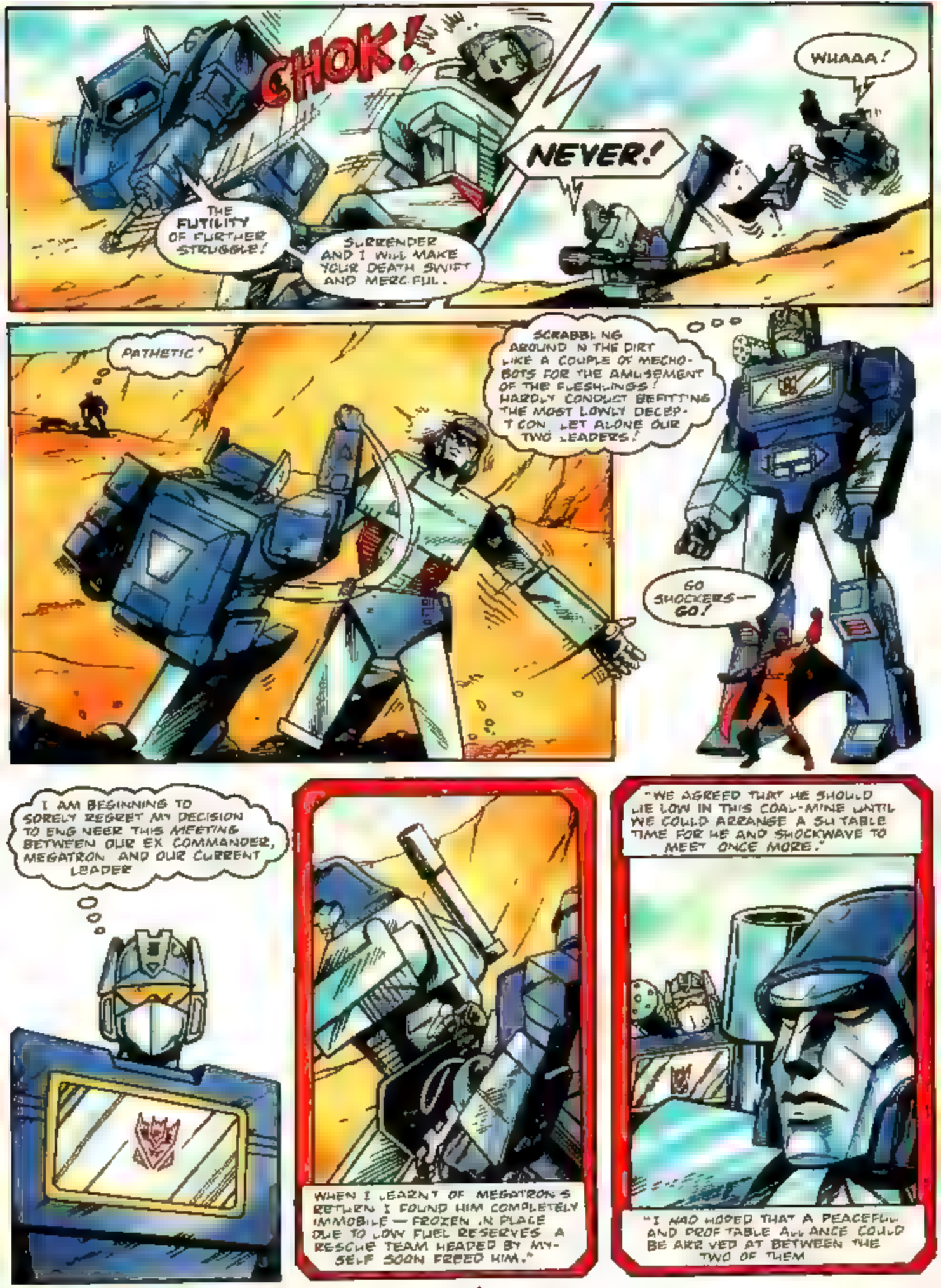
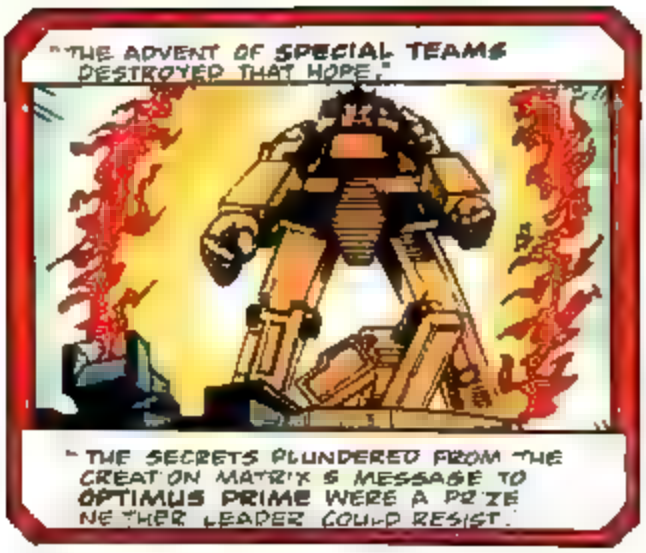
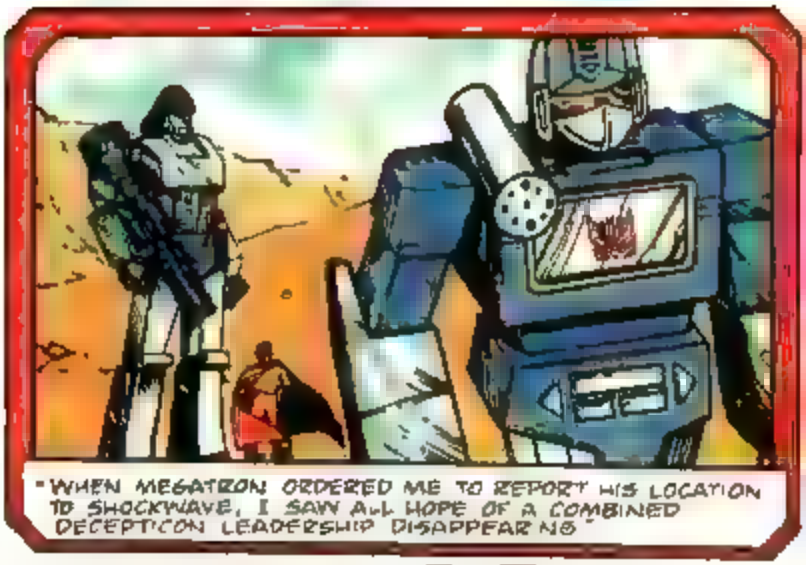
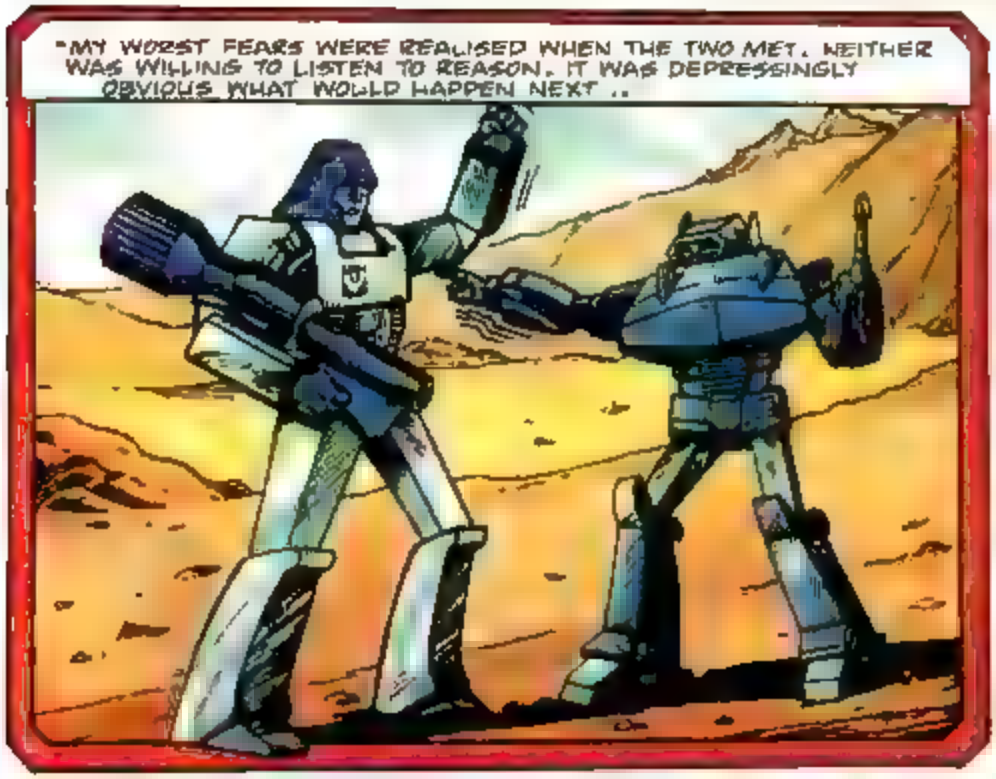
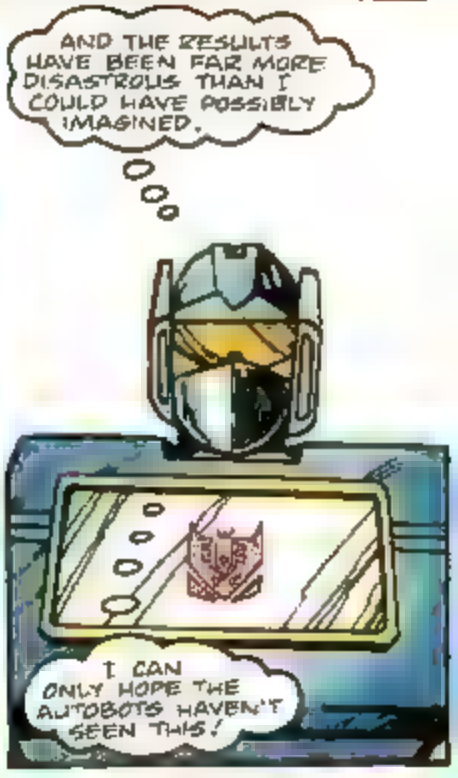

THROK!
ON YOUR KNEES USURPER — FALL! THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE LEADER OF THE DECEPT CONS..
AND IT IS...
MEGATRON!
PAH! I WOULD SEEM, MEGATRON, THAT THE TIME SINCE OUR LAST BATTLE HAS DULLED THE MEMORY OF YOUR CRUSHING DEFEAT AT MY HANDS.
OTHERWISE YOU WOULD REALISE..
CHANGG!


CHOK!
WHAAA!
NEVER!
THE FUTILITY OF FURTHER STRUGGLE!
SURRENDER AND I WILL MAKE YOUR DEATH SWIFT AND MERCIFUL.
PATHETIC!
SCRABBLING AROUND IN THE DIRT LIKE A COUPLE OF MECHOBOTS FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE FLESHLINGS! HARDLY CONDUCT BEFITTING THE MOST LOWLY DECEPTICON, LET ALONE OUR TWO LEADERS!
GO SHOCKERS— GO!
I AM BEGINNING TO SORELY REGRET MY DECISION TO ENGINEER THIS MEETING BETWEEN OUR EX COMMANDER, MEGATRON AND OUR CURRENT LEADER
WHEN I LEARNT OF MEGATRON'S RETURN I FOUND HIM COMPLETELY IMMOBILE — FROZEN IN PLACE DUE TO LOW FUEL RESERVES. A RESCUE TEAM HEADED BY MYSELF SOON FREED HIM."
"WE AGREED THAT HE SHOULD LIE LOW IN THIS COAL-MINE UNTIL WE COULD ARRANGE A SUITABLE TIME FOR HE AND SHOCKWAVE TO MEET ONCE MORE."
"I HAD HOPED THAT A PEACEFUL AND PROFITABLE ALLIANCE COULD BE ARRIVED AT BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM

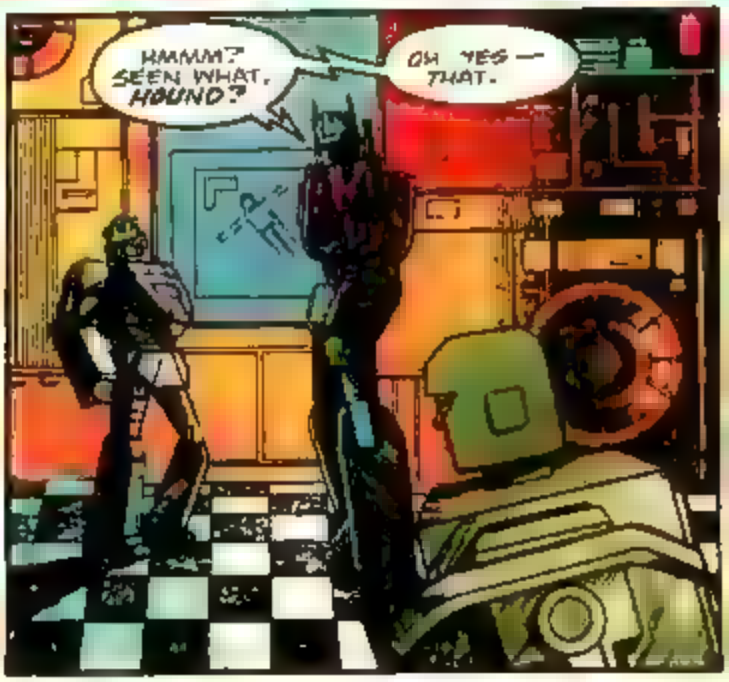

"THE ADVENT OF SPECIAL TEAMS DESTROYED THAT HOPE."
"THE SECRETS PLUNDERED FROM THE CREATION MATRIX'S MESSAGE TO OPTIMUS PRIME WERE A PRIZE NEITHER LEADER COULD RESIST."

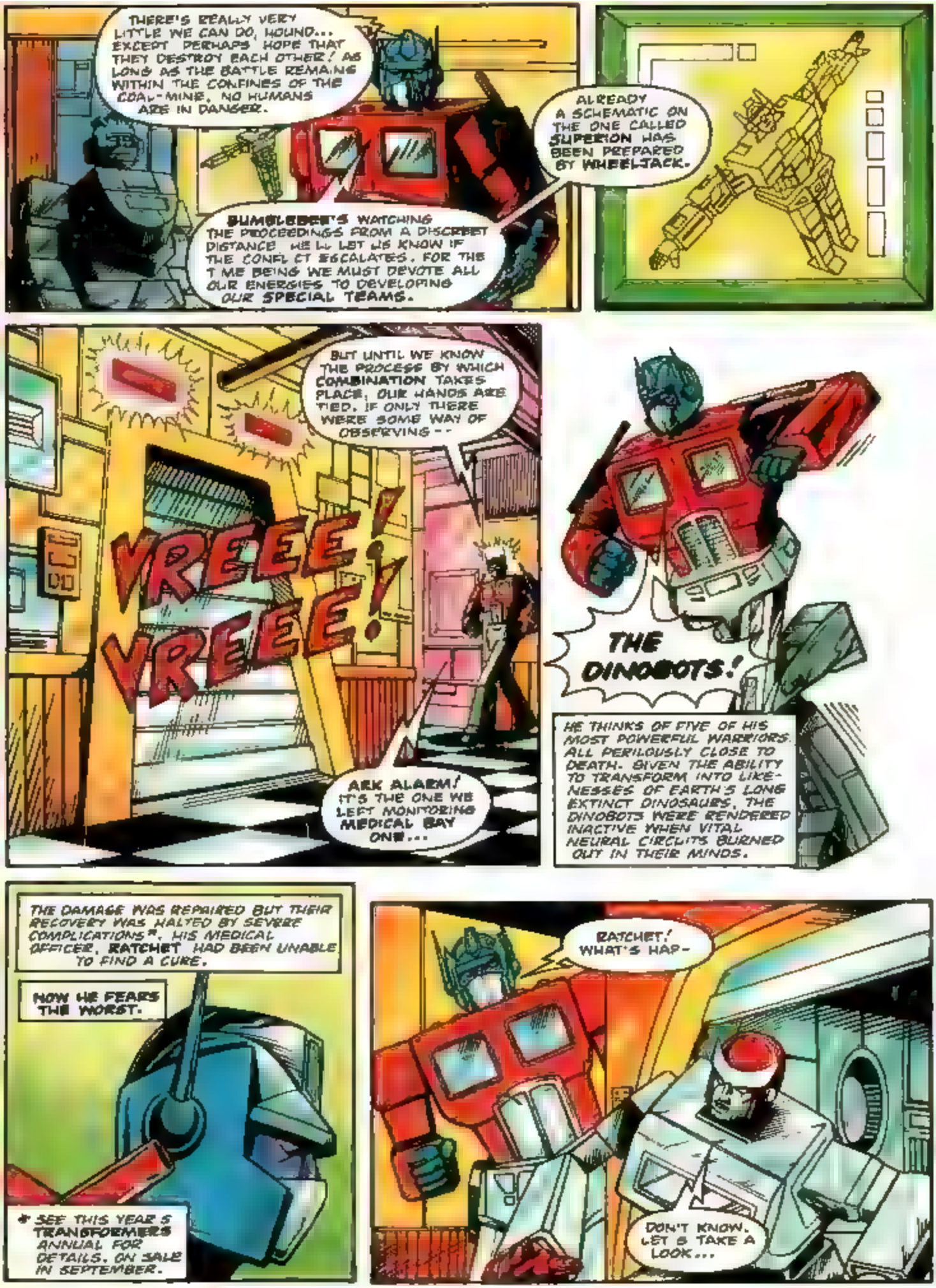

"WHEN MEGATRON ORDERED ME TO REPORT HIS LOCATION TO SHOCKWAVE, I SAW ALL HOPE OF A COMBINED DECEPTICON LEADERSHIP DISAPPEAR."

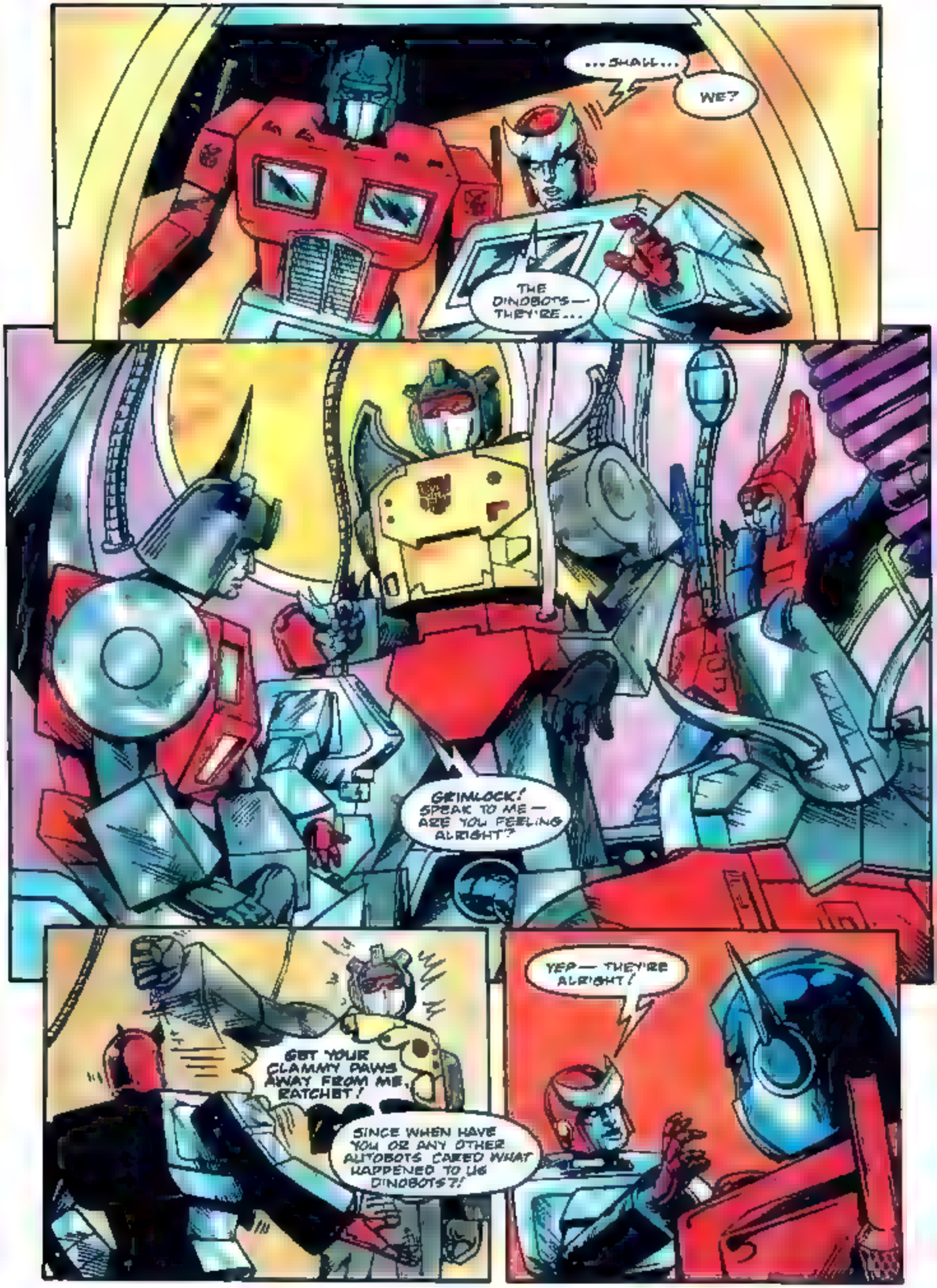

"MY WORST FEARS WERE REALISED WHEN THE TWO MET. NEITHER WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO REASON. IT WAS DEPRESSINGLY OBVIOUS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT.."


AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN FAR MORE DISASTROUS THAN I COULD HAVE POSSIBLY IMAGINED.
I CAN ONLY HOPE THE AUTOBOTS HAVEN'T SEEN THIS!

HEY OPTIMUS — YOU SEEN THIS?

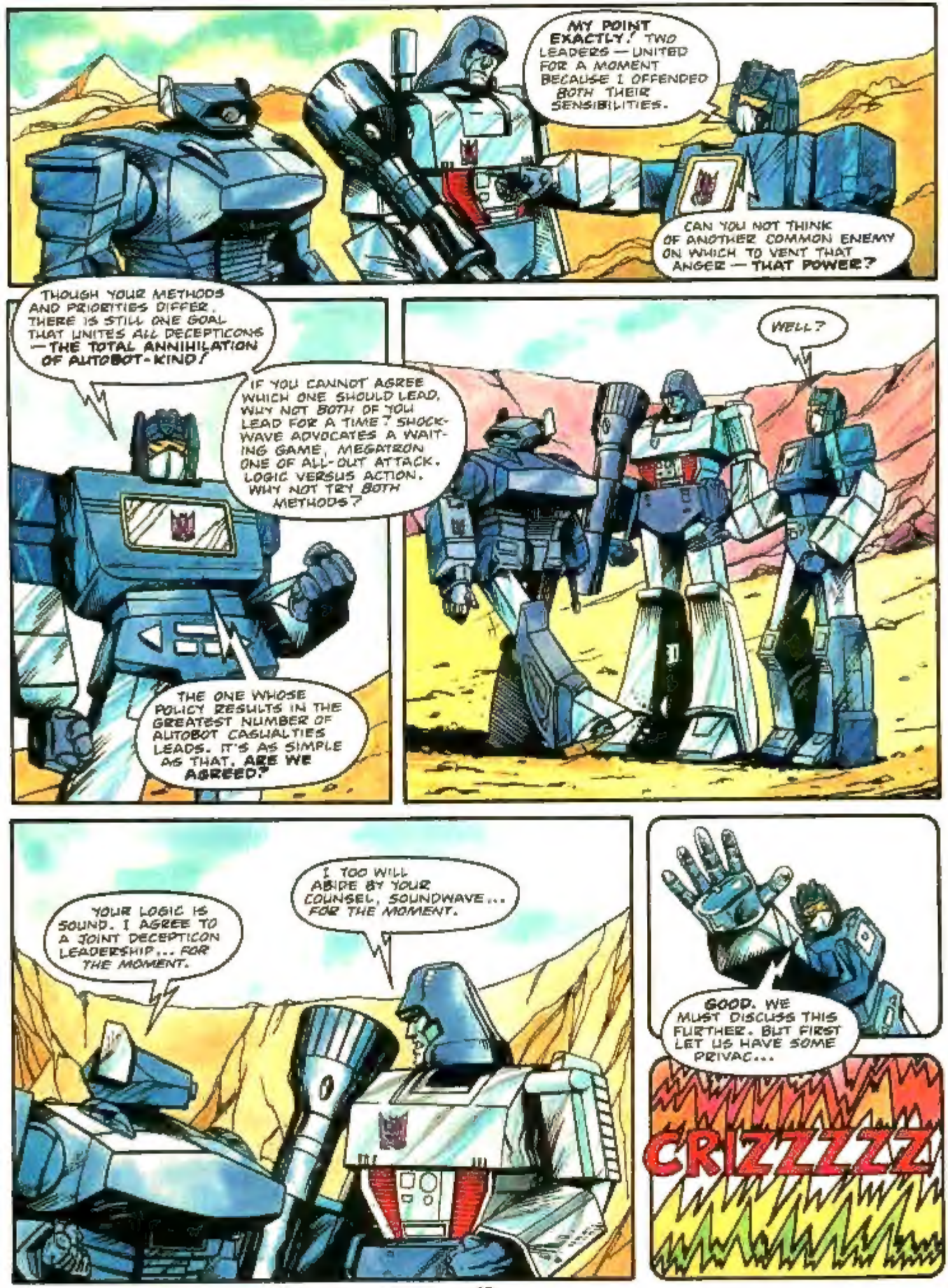

HMMM? SEEN WHAT, HOUND?
OH YES — THAT.


THERE'S REALLY VERY LITTLE WE CAN DO, HOUND... EXCEPT PERHAPS HOPE THAT THEY DESTROY EACH OTHER! AS LONG AS THE BATTLE REMAINS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE COAL-MINE, NO HUMANS ARE IN DANGER.
BUMBLEBEE'S WATCHING THE PROCEEDINGS FROM A DISCREET DISTANCE. HE'LL LET US KNOW IF THE CONFLICT ESCALATES. FOR THE TIME BEING WE MUST DEVOTE ALL OUR ENERGIES TO DEVELOPING OUR SPECIAL TEAMS.
ALREADY A SCHEMATIC ON THE ONE CALLED SUPERION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY WHEELJACK.
BUT UNTIL WE KNOW THE PROCESS BY WHICH COMBINATION TAKES PLACE, OUR HANDS ARE TIED. IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY OF OBSERVING--
VREEE! VREEE!
ARK ALARM! IT'S THE ONE WE LEFT MONITORING MEDICAL BAY ONE...
THE DINOBOTS!
HE THINKS OF FIVE OF HIS MOST POWERFUL WARRIORS. ALL PERILOUSLY CLOSE TO DEATH. GIVEN THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO LIKENESSES OF EARTH'S LONG EXTINCT DINOSAURS, THE DINOBOTS WERE RENDERED INACTIVE WHEN VITAL NEURAL CIRCUITS BURNED OUT IN THEIR MINDS.
THE DAMAGE WAS REPAIRED BUT THEIR RECOVERY WAS HALTED BY SEVERE COMPLICATIONS*. HIS MEDICAL OFFICER, RATCHET HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND A CURE.
NOW HE FEARS THE WORST.
* SEE THIS YEAR'S TRANSFORMERS ANNUAL FOR DETAILS. ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER.
RATCHET! WHAT'S HAP-
DON'T KNOW. LET'S TAKE A LOOK...


...SHALL...
WE?
THE DINOBOTS— THEY'RE...
GRIMLOCK! SPEAK TO ME— ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?
GET YOUR CLAMMY PAWS AWAY FROM ME, RATCHET!
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU OR ANY OTHER AUTOBOTS CARED WHAT HAPPENED TO US DINOBOTS?!
YEP— THEY'RE ALRIGHT!

MEANWHILE...
SHRA-CHAAK!
THROOM!
THIS IS HOPELESS! THEY ARE TOO EVENLY MATCHED... AND TOO EVENLY CONCEITED TO REALISE IT!
HEY, SOUNDS — YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING DOWN THERE ARE YOU?
THAT MAKES YOU EITHER VERY BRAVE OR VERY STUPID. YOU GET IN THEIR WAY AND THEY'LL KILL YOU WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
ANY LAST REQUESTS?
CIGARETTE PERHAPS?

PLTTUP!
YIII!
POISONS AND PREMATURE DEATH DO NOT INTEREST ME!
SUIT YOURSELF... BUT KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
THAT IS ENOUGH!
LET THIS DEBACLE CEASE NOW — BEFORE OUR ENEMIES ALL DIE... LAUGHING!
HOW DARE YOU!

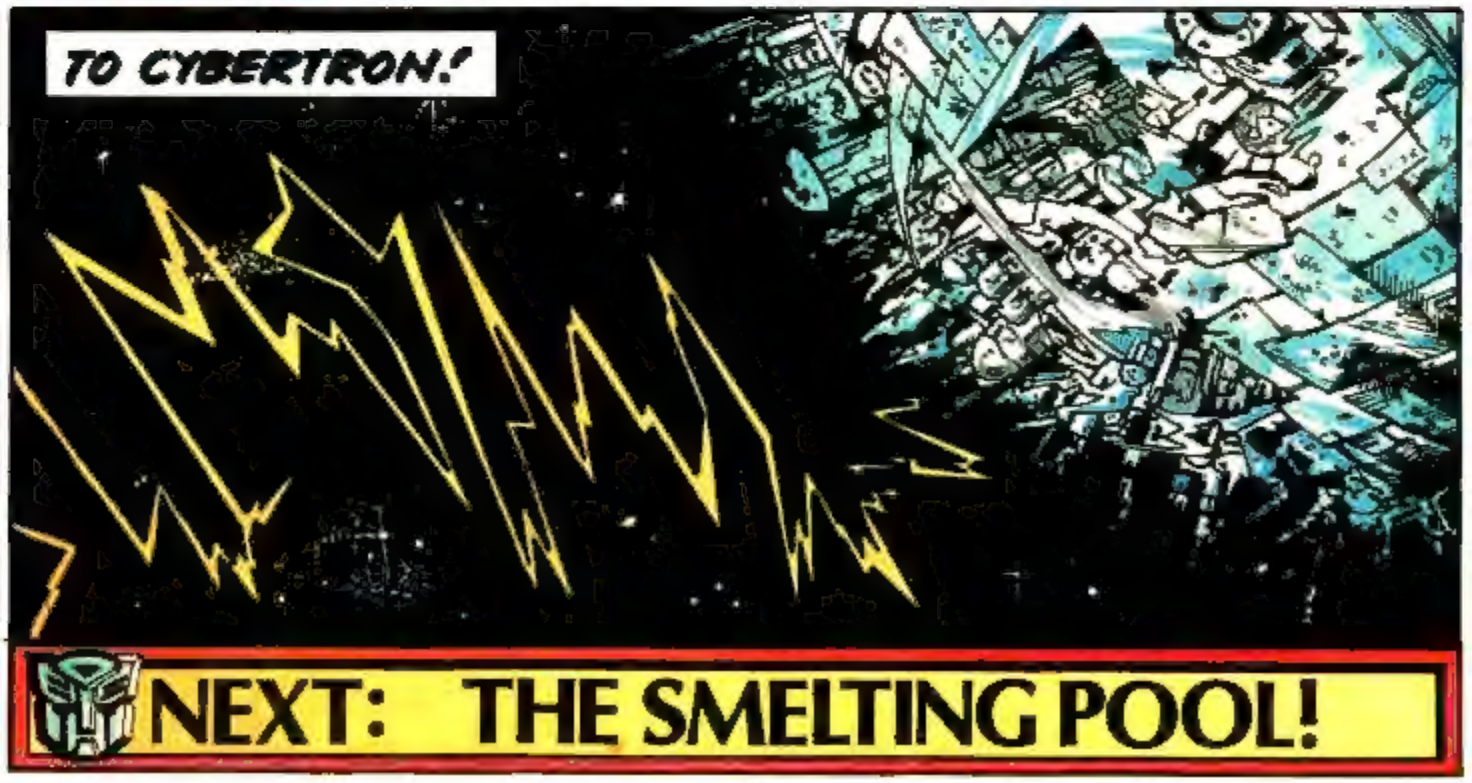

MY POINT EXACTLY! TWO LEADERS — UNITED FOR A MOMENT BECAUSE I OFFENDED BOTH THEIR SENSIBILITIES.
CAN YOU NOT THINK OF ANOTHER COMMON ENEMY ON WHICH TO VENT THAT ANGER — THAT POWER?
THOUGH YOUR METHODS AND PRIORITIES DIFFER, THERE IS STILL ONE GOAL THAT UNITES ALL DECEPTICONS — THE TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF AUTOBOT-KIND!
IF YOU CANNOT AGREE WHICH ONE SHOULD LEAD, WHY NOT BOTH OF YOU LEAD FOR A TIME? SHOCKWAVE ADVOCATES A WAITING GAME, MEGATRON ONE OF ALL-OUT ATTACK. LOGIC VERSUS ACTION. WHY NOT TRY BOTH METHODS?
THE ONE WHOSE POLICY RESULTS IN THE GREATEST NUMBER OF AUTOBOT CASUALTIES LEADS. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT. ARE WE AGREED?
WELL?
YOUR LOGIC IS SOUND. I AGREE TO A JOINT DECEPTICON LEADERSHIP... FOR THE MOMENT.
I TOO WILL ABIDE BY YOUR COUNSEL, SOUNDWAVE... FOR THE MOMENT.
GOOD. WE MUST DISCUSS THIS FURTHER. BUT FIRST LET US HAVE SOME PRIVAC...
CRIZZZZZ

AND THAT'S ALL WE GOT, EVIDENTLY SOUNDWAVE USED HIS POWER TO BLOCK THE MONITOR'S SIGNAL.
YES, AND BUMBLEBEE WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW AS OTHER DECEPTICONS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. A PITY, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE KNOWN WHAT FURTHER ACTIONS THE DECEPTICONS WERE CONTEMPLATING.

STILL, WITH THE DINOBOTS ACTIVE AND THE SECRETS OF SPECIAL TEAMS SOLELY IN OUR POSSESSION...
...WE ARE READY FOR ANYTHING THEY CAN THROW AT US!

A STREAM OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSES EMERGES FROM WARP SPACE INTO A GALAXY FAR, FAR BEYOND OUR OWN.

BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY OR RANDOM ENERGY. IT BEARS A MESSAGE.
A MESSAGE FROM EARTH...


TO CYBERTRON!
NEXT: THE SMELTING POOL!